

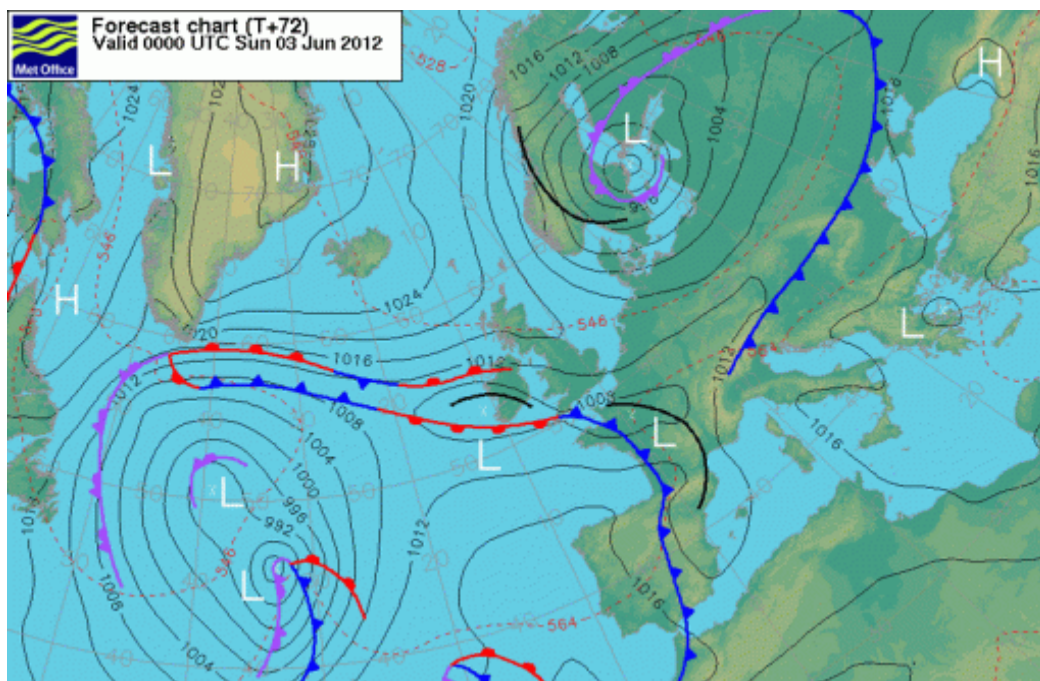
There is a lot of interest in this weekend's weather as the Jubilee celebrations draw near, so there has been plenty of coverage in the news about what's in store.

Some articles have ended up wide of the mark, however, with one in particular claiming the weekend could be affected by Tropical Storm Beryl – which has already dissipated in the Atlantic and is no longer a tropical storm.

The Met Office forecasts the remnants of this storm to dissipate further as it moves across the Atlantic and not affect the UK's weather.

So what conditions will we actually see over the Jubilee celebrations?

There's a fairly complex weather picture developing for the UK, with high pressure to the north and low pressure systems moving into the south by Sunday.



Forecast pressure chart for midday on Saturday showing high pressures to the north and south of the UK, and two low pressure systems to the east and west.

This means the situation is finely balanced, but the Met Office expects a marked split in the weather from the southern half to the northern half of the UK.

Saturday is expected to be a largely fine and dry day for much of the UK. However, cloud and rain will

never be far away from the south-west and here we expect it to turn increasingly cloudy with rain moving in during the second half of the day.

As we move into Sunday, the southern half of the UK will see rain – heavy at times – while the northern half once again sees the best of any dry and bright spells. It will, however, be much cooler than last weekend in all parts.

Looking forward to next week, the outlook is for variable weather conditions – with sunshine, showers, and occasional longer spells of rain. You can see a [regularly updated forecast for Jubilee celebration events on our website](#).

After a spell of exceptionally warm and fine weather, it may be disappointing that this won't last through to the Jubilee weekend. However, many parts of the UK will see some dry and bright spells at times.

It's certainly not unusual to see some rain at this time of year, in fact the general weather picture is for some typically British weather.

Looking back at past weather on important events in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, her [Coronation Day](#) on 2 June 1953 saw rain and relatively cool temperatures for the time of year – with a maximum temperature of around 12C. You can see what the weather was doing on other dates during her life and reign in [our online infographic](#).

Date Created

May 2012

Definitely May-be an average month

Description

After a particularly cold and wet start, followed by a dry and exceptionally warm spell, May could be seen as anything but average.

However, the early monthly figures tell a different story – statistics from 1st to 28th of the month show temperature, rainfall and even sunshine are very close to normal.

This May is a stark example of why it's difficult to judge a month at its halfway stage.

Up to the 15th the mean temperature for the UK was just 8.1 °C, 1.9 °C below the long-term (1971-2000) average.

Rainfall was running at 79% of the average too, well ahead for just halfway through the month, and sunshine was behind at just 41% of the average. This tells the story of a wet, gloomy and cold 15 days.

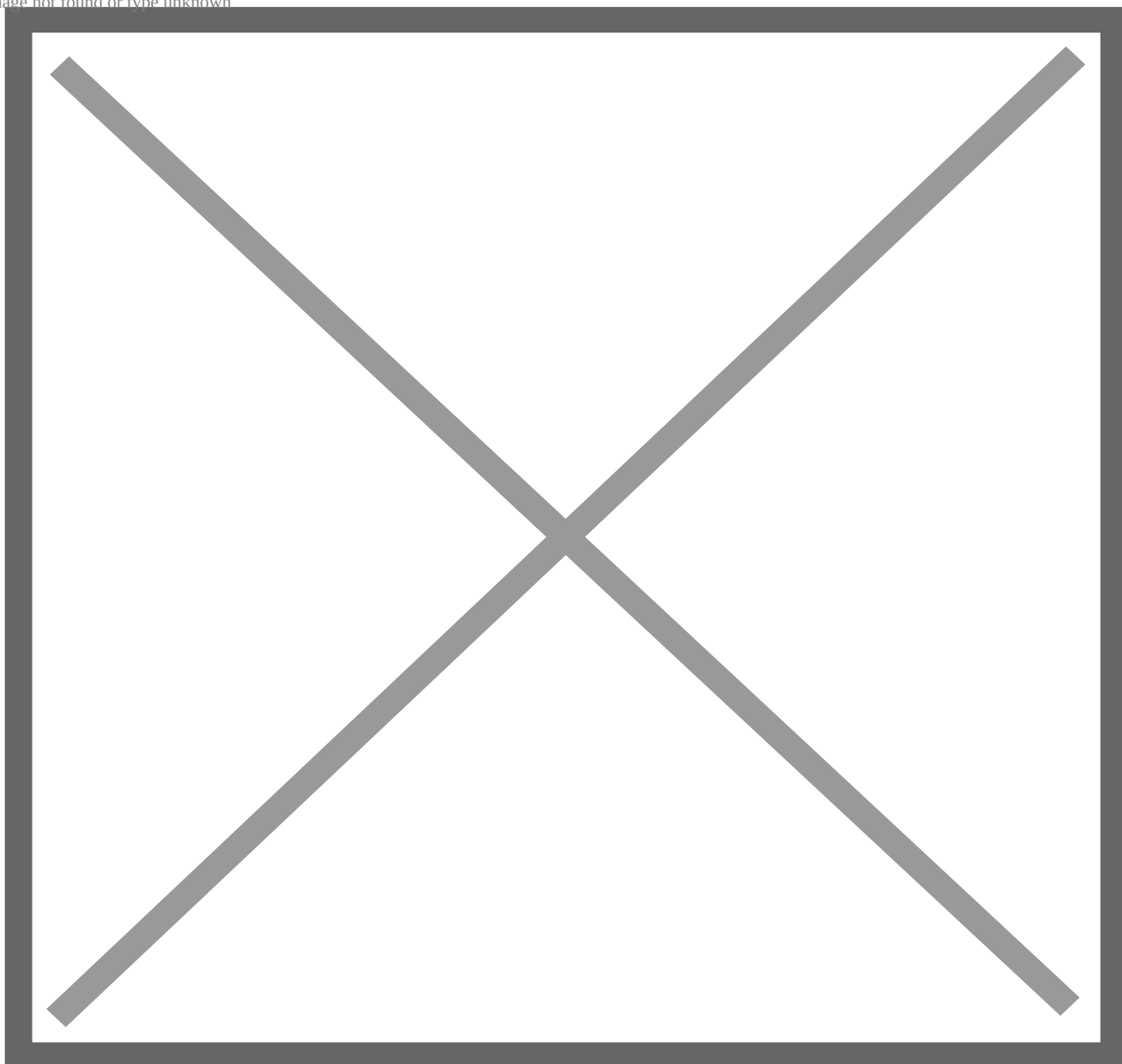
But around the 20th the UK's weather changed its mood – giving way to a run of dry and fine weather, with some remarkably high temperatures.

This included a new maximum May temperature for Scotland – with 29.3 °C recorded in Achnagart, Highlands, on 25 May, beating the previous record of 29 °C set in 1992 at Edinburgh's [Royal Botanic Garden](#).

In all, it has been the longest warm spell in May since 1992.

This means that, as we draw near to the end of the month, the figures for May now look very different and spectacularly average.

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Mean temperature for 1 to 28 May is 10.1 °C, just 0.1 °C above the long-term average. Sunshine is at 104% of the average with 192 hours, so a little above what we would expect, and rainfall is just below at 90% of the average, or 59.8mm.

Clearly these are early month figures and the statistics at the end of the month will change somewhat.

However, the story of this May so far illustrates perfectly just how variable the Great British weather can be. From being a very cold first half of the month, to record breaking temperatures in the second – even if statistically we have had an ‘average’ month, it has actually been a very interesting few weeks of weather.

You can see full summaries of the UK's weather for every month going back to 2001 on the [UK climate pages on our website](#). The full summary for May will be available a few days after the month has finished.

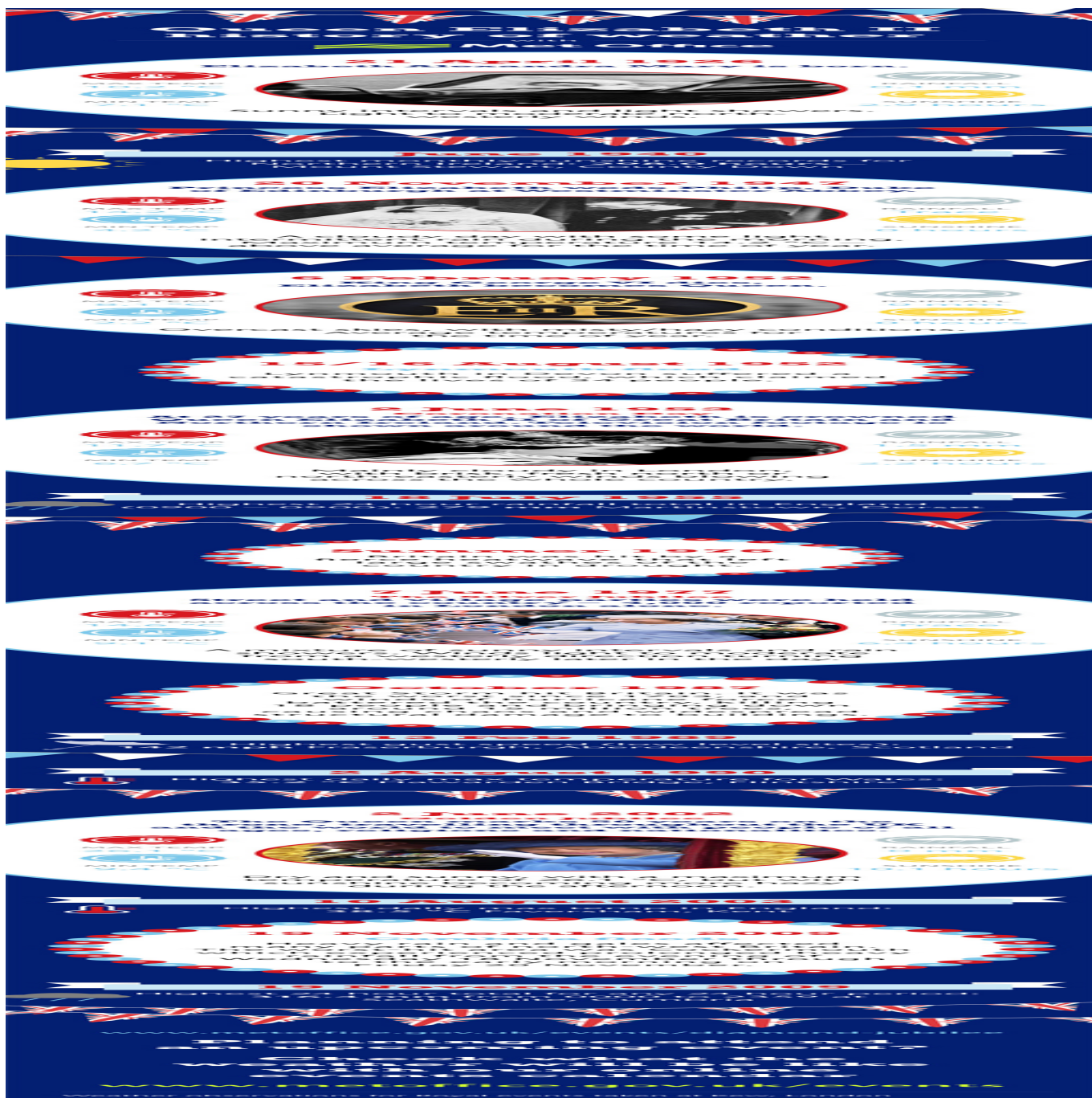
Date Created

May 2012

Win the chance to present your own weather forecast

Description

To celebrate the jubilee we're offering the chance to present and record your own Met Office weather forecast. To be in with a chance of winning just [answer a simple question on our Facebook page](#). For a clue, have a look at our jubilee infographic below.



There's also [weather forecasts for jubilee events](#) on our website.

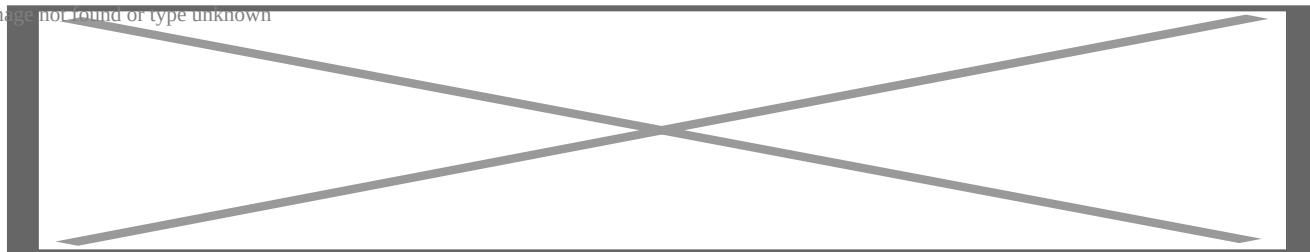
Date Created

May 2012

Met Office ranked in top ten social brands

Description

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The

Met Office has made it into the top ten social brands in the Headstream [Social Brands 100](#) list for 2012. The Met Office came in joint ninth position and was recognised as the top ranked organisation in the services category.

Our Facebook account fared particularly well and was the eighth top performing brand on this platform. On Twitter, we scored highly for speed of response and mentions of other Twitter accounts.

The ranking takes into account the range of engagement across [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Google+](#) and our [blog](#).

Charlotte Howells, Social Media and online communications Manager said: “The weather is something we all love to talk about and we want to be at the centre of those conversations about our ever changing weather and climate. We are absolutely delighted to have been recognised by social brands 100 and look forward to carrying on the conversations we are having with the public about the weather.”

The top 100 brands are put through a rigorous and independent judging process with an expert panel of judges from companies including Google, YouTube and Twitter helping to determine the final ranking position.

Social Brands 100 was created by social specialist agency Headstream in 2011 as an initiative to identify and acknowledge those brands leading the way in the social age. Now in its second year, Social Brands 100 has established a position as one of the leading rankings of social media performance.

You can download the full Social Brands 100 [report](#) here.

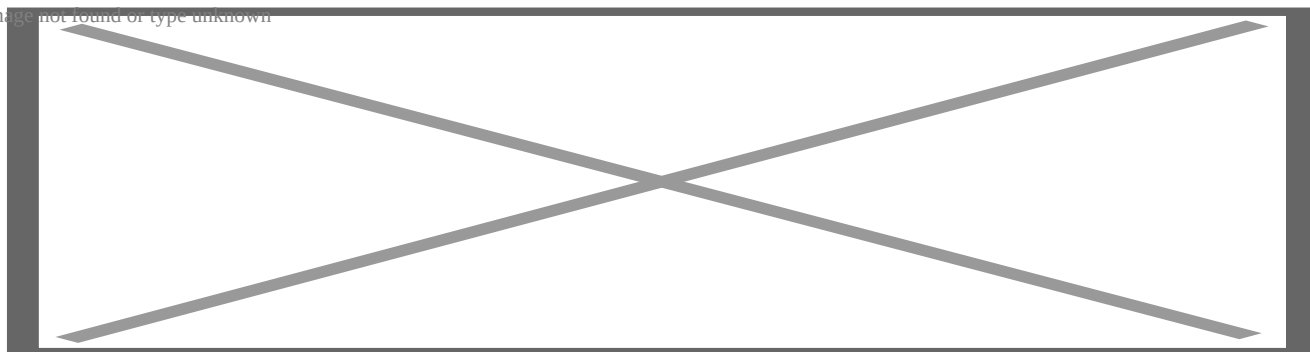
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May 2012

Slow start to pollen season

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Although the pollen season has had a slow start, levels are starting to increase following the settled weather the UK has seen over the last week.

Our pollen forecast, sponsored by [Benadryl](#), uses our latest weather forecast information and combine this with pollen readings from across the UK. There are millions of hay fever sufferers across the UK, and the Met Office forecasts provide vital information to help reduce the impact pollen has on their health.

At this time of year, grass pollen becomes more prevalent.

Health Manager at the Met Office, Patrick Sachon said: "Following the heavy and consistent rain we saw in April and early May, we are seeing the grass grow quicker than this time last year, when it was much drier. This is therefore expected to cause higher levels of grass pollen than last year.

"The Met Office forecast for the weekend is for the UK to remain warm and dry in most areas, with temperatures in the mid twenties in many parts. This means that those who suffer from hay fever will need to keep an eye the pollen count over the next few days."

The [pollen forecast](#) is part of the wide range of weather-related services offered by the Met Office, which also include the [UV index](#) and [Heat Health watch](#).

If you are suffering from hay fever, you can also record your symptoms on the [Benedryl pollen count tool](#).

Find out more about the [pollen forecast](#).

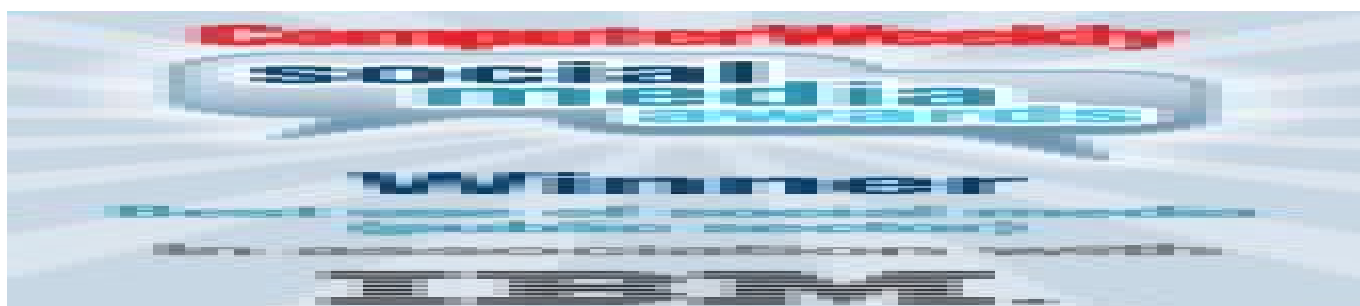
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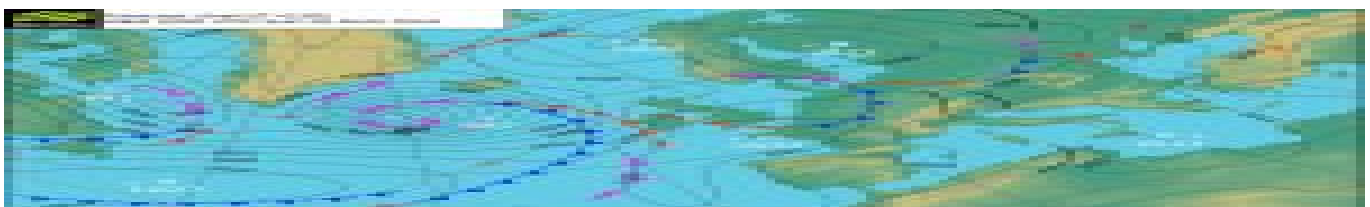
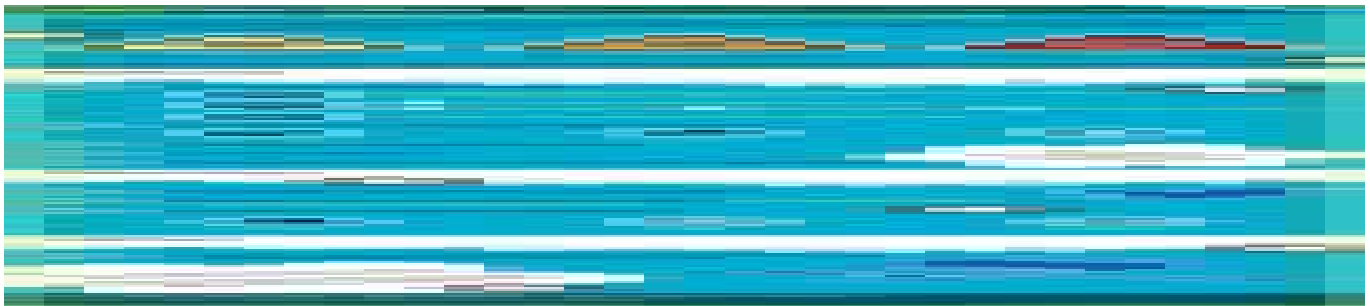
May 2012

Your weather pictures

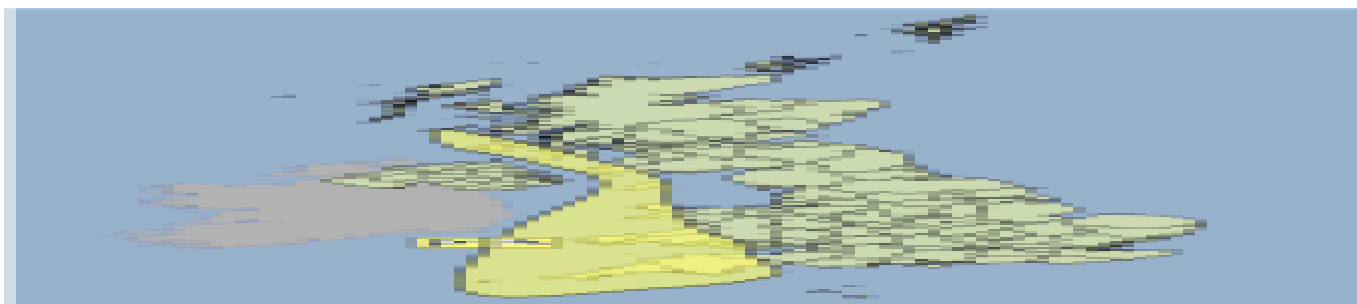
Description

Thank you for sharing your weather pictures on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Here's some of our favourites.

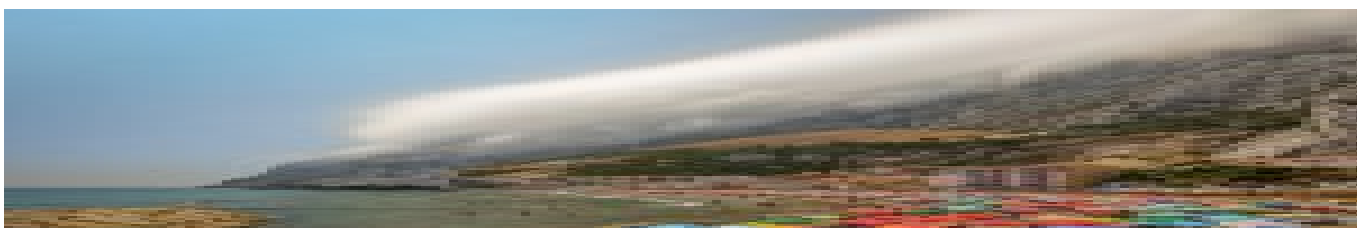




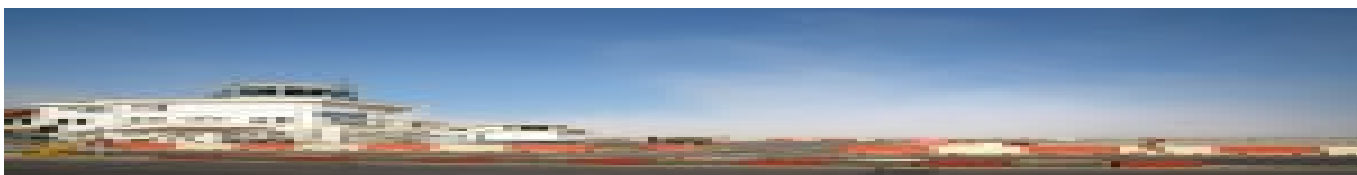
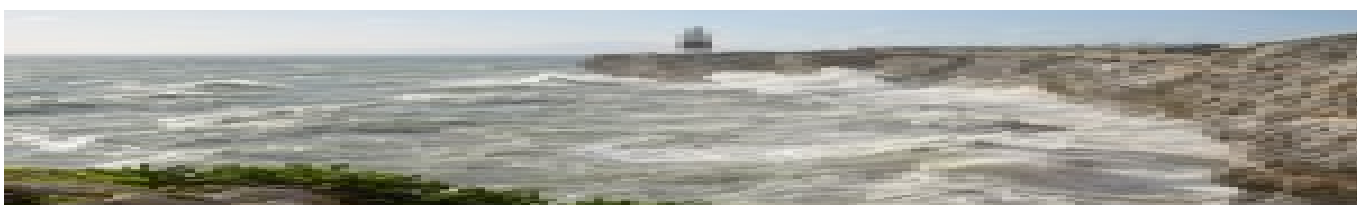
Forecast pressure chart for 1pm on Sunday 31 August shows ex-Cristobal heading towards Iceland.



Dual warning for wind and rain



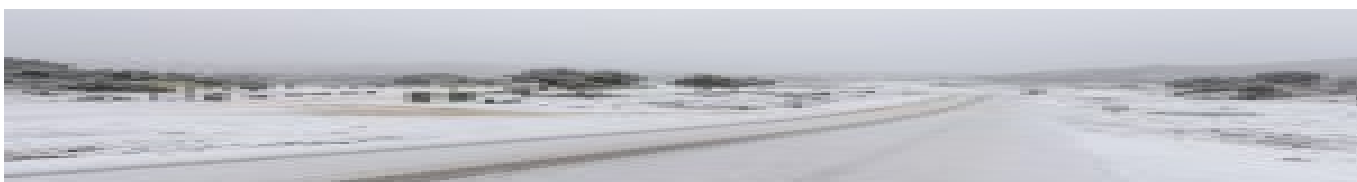
Upslope Cloud



RAF Gibraltar

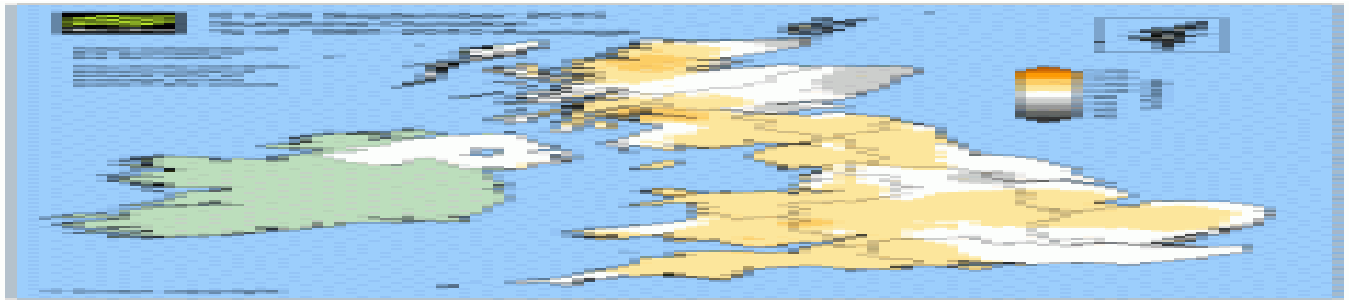


Lenticular Cloud

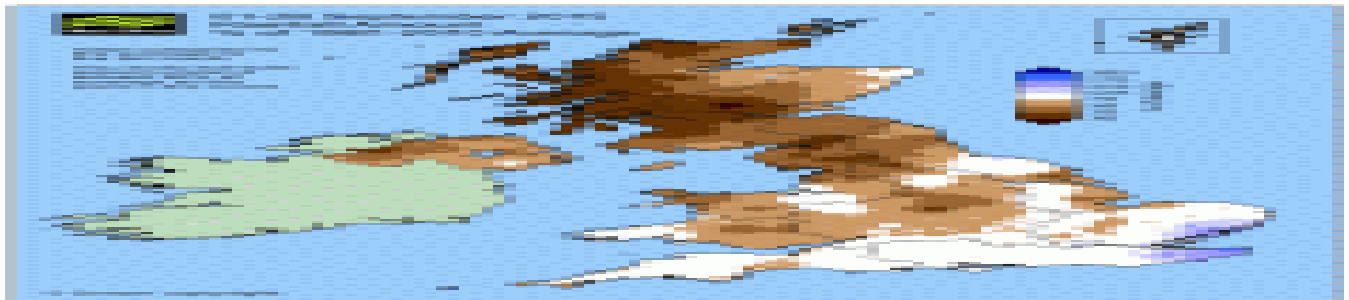


Snow in Ronda

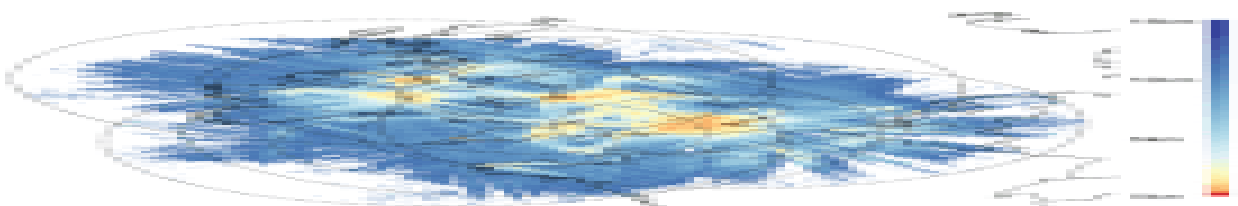
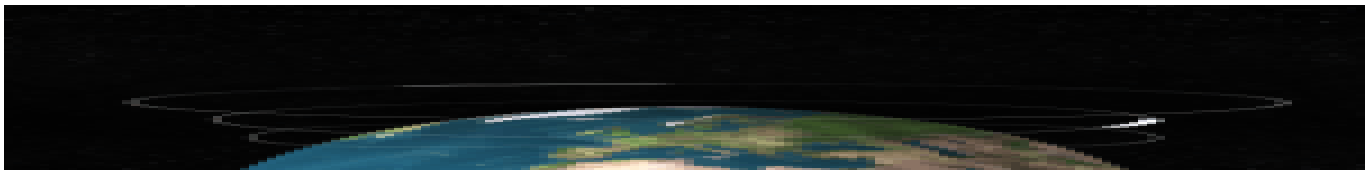


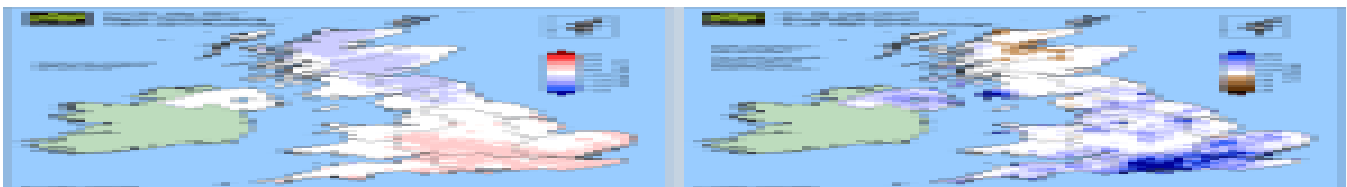
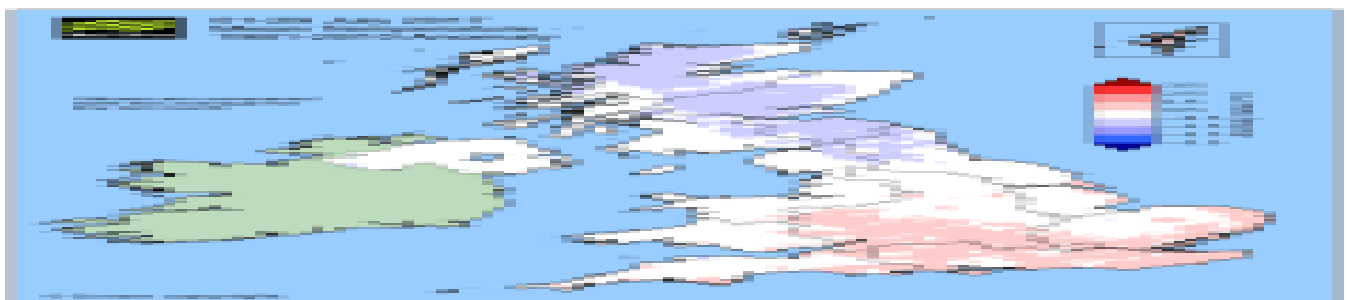
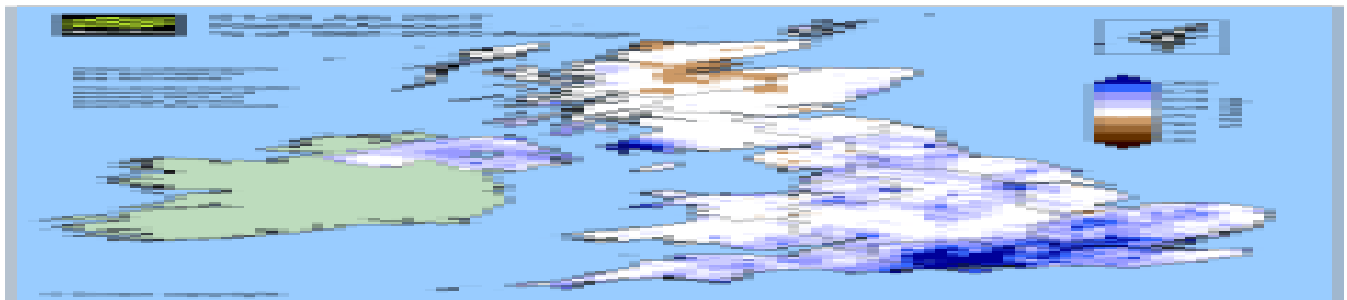
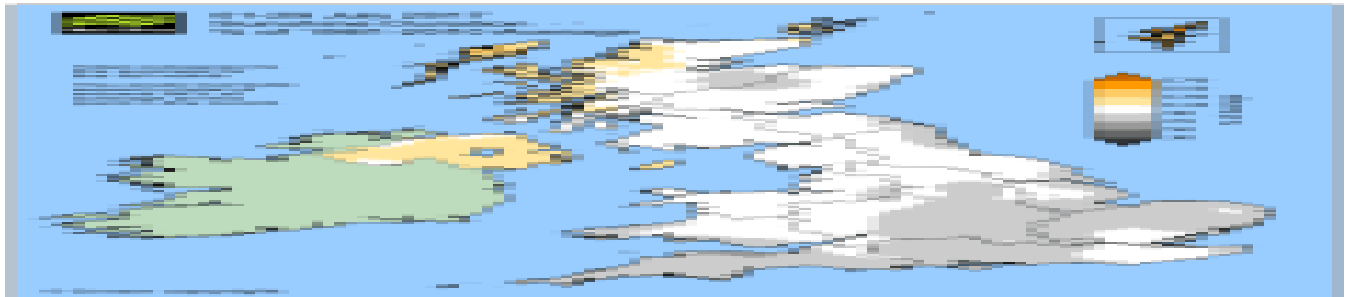


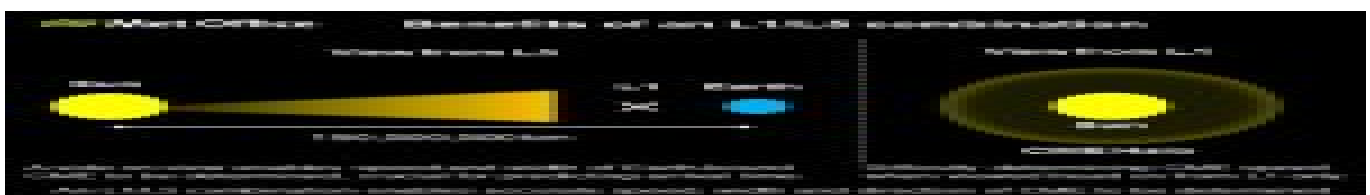
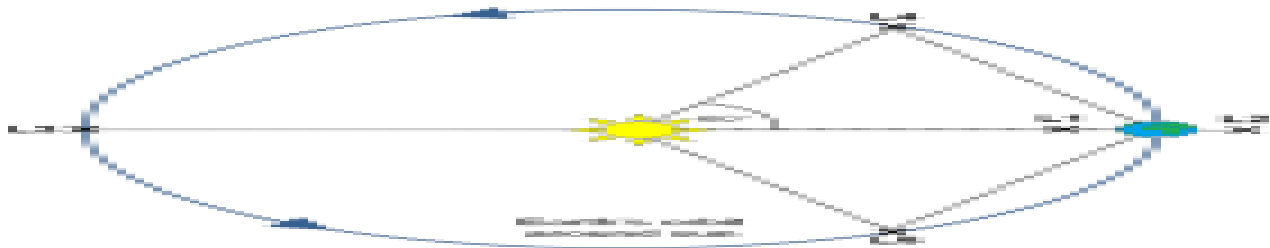
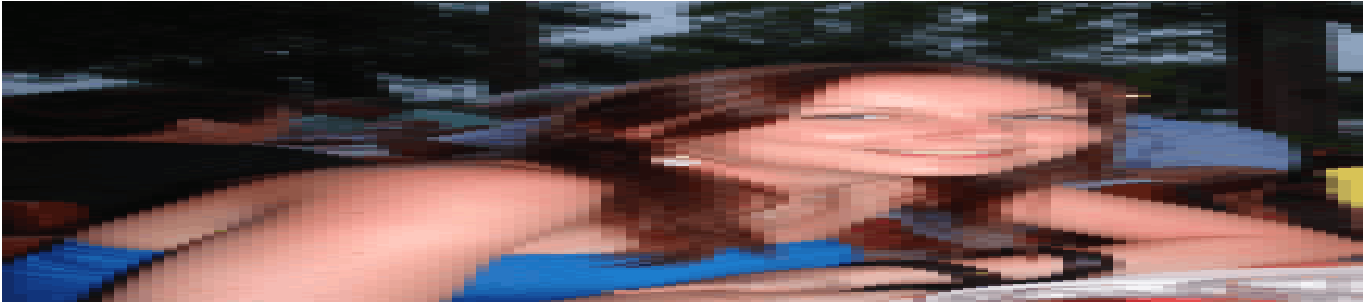
September 2015 sunshine anomaly

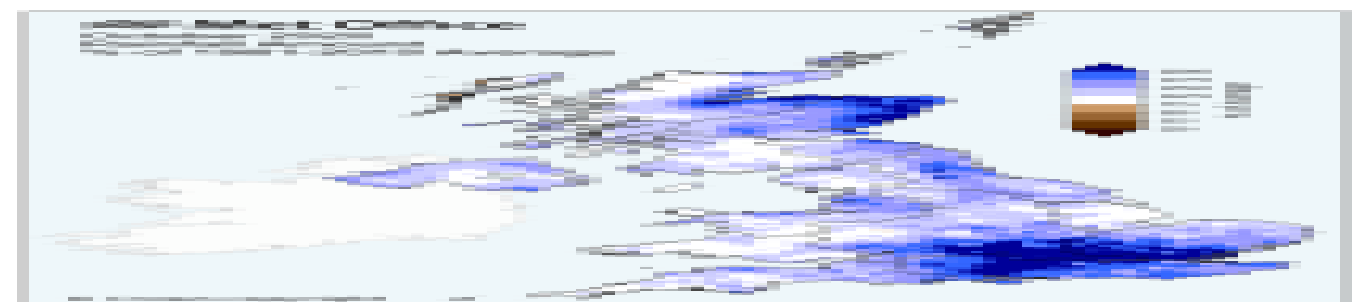
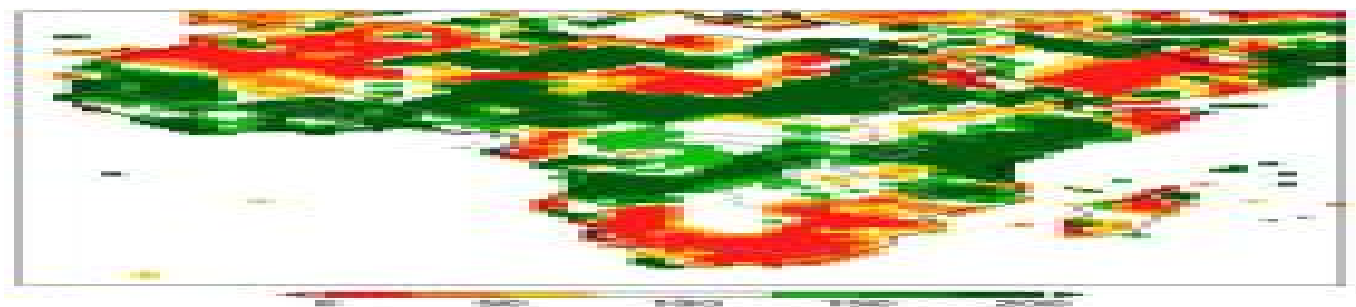


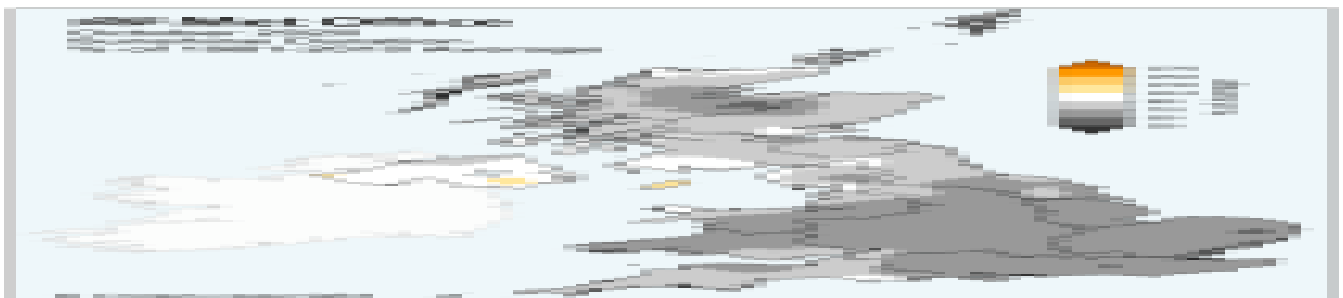
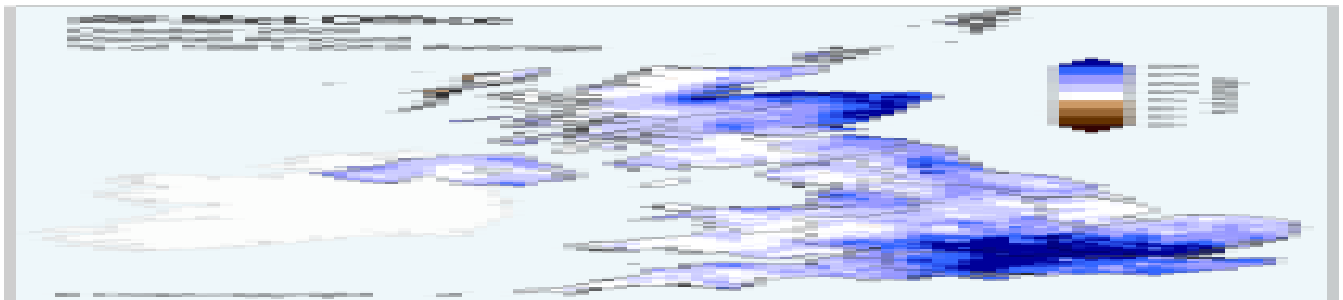
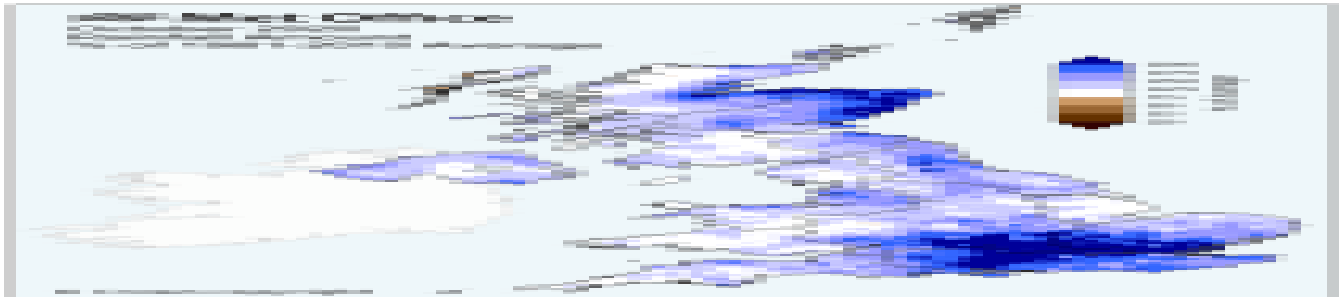
September 2015 rainfall amount

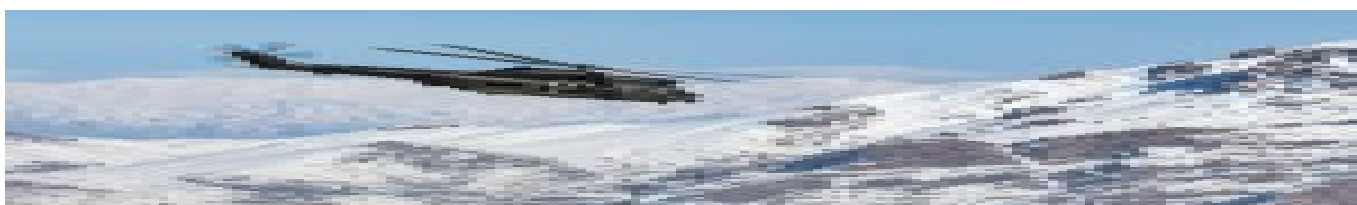
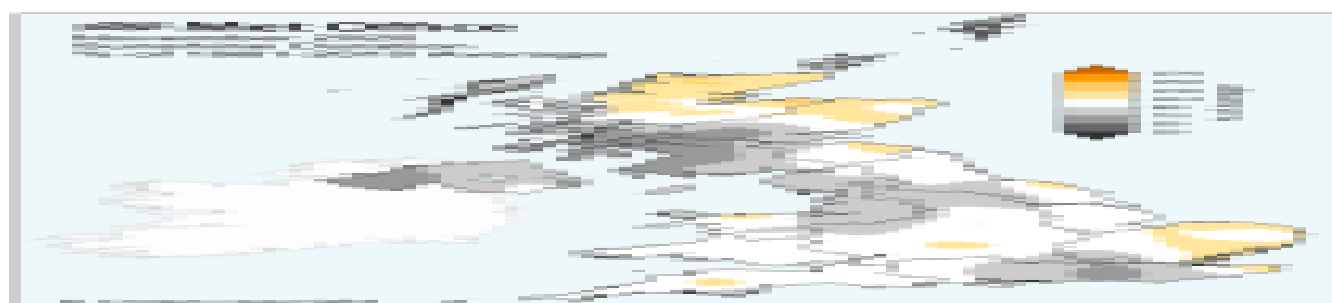
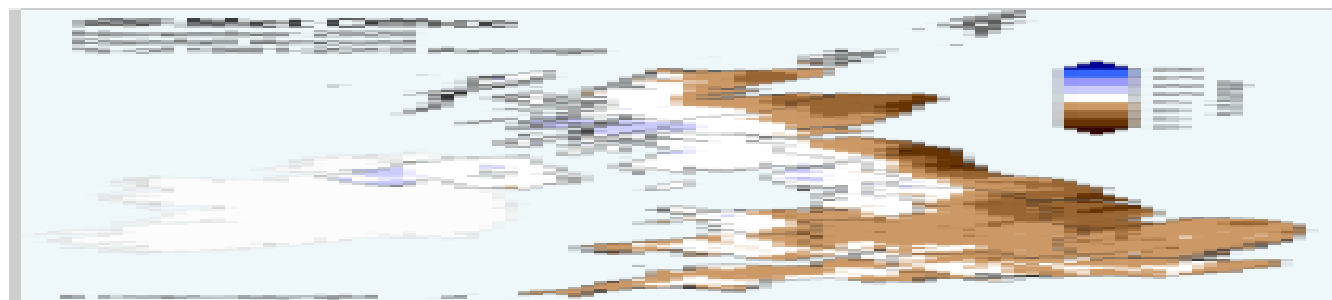




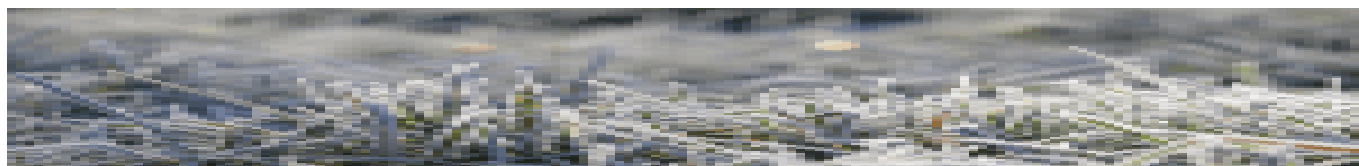
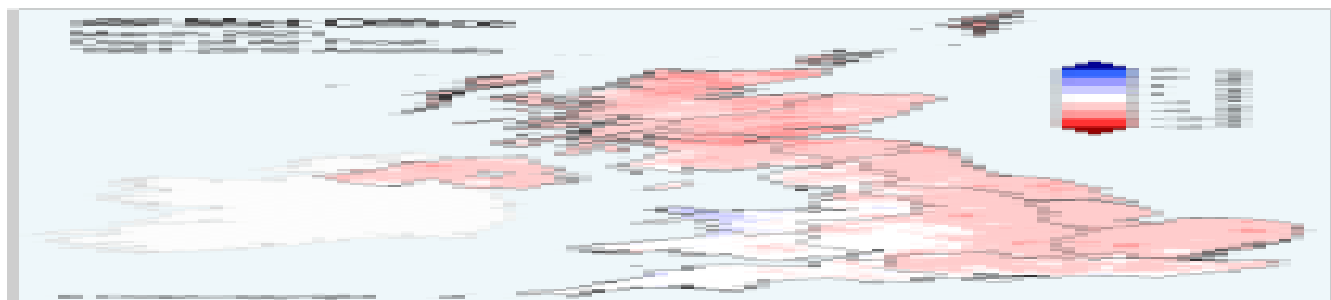
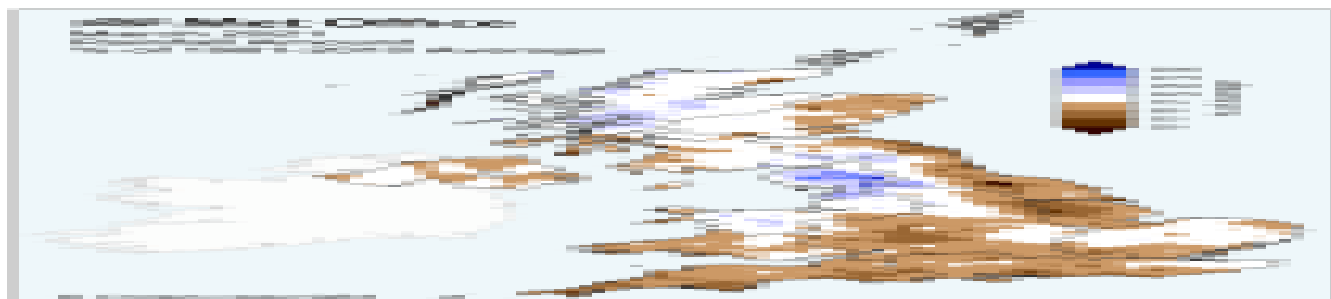
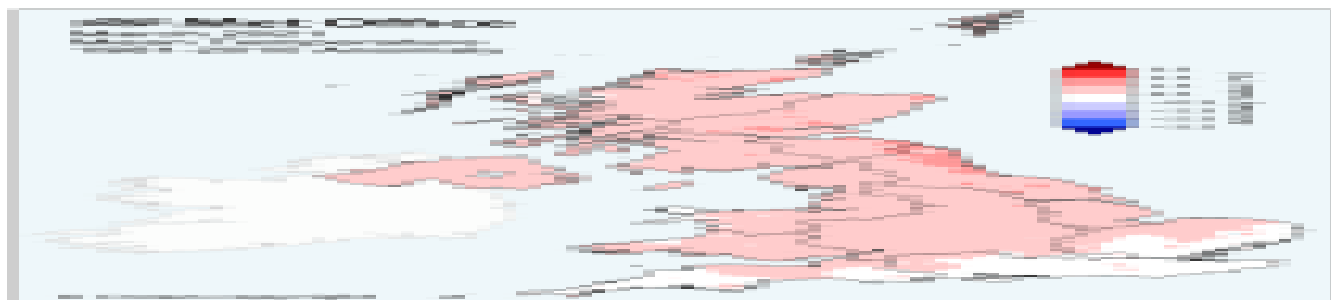
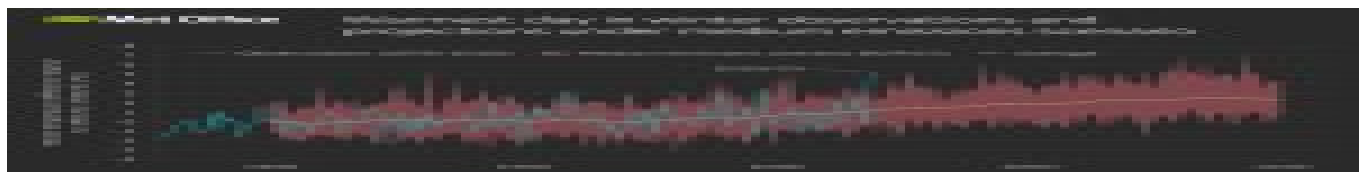


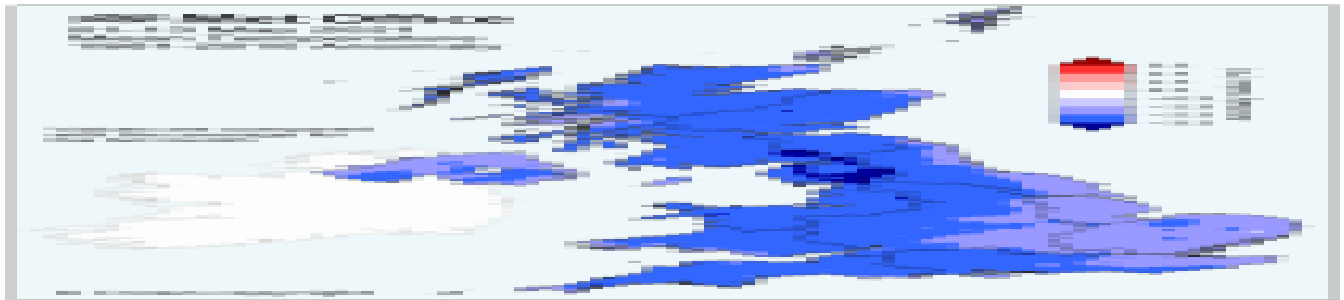
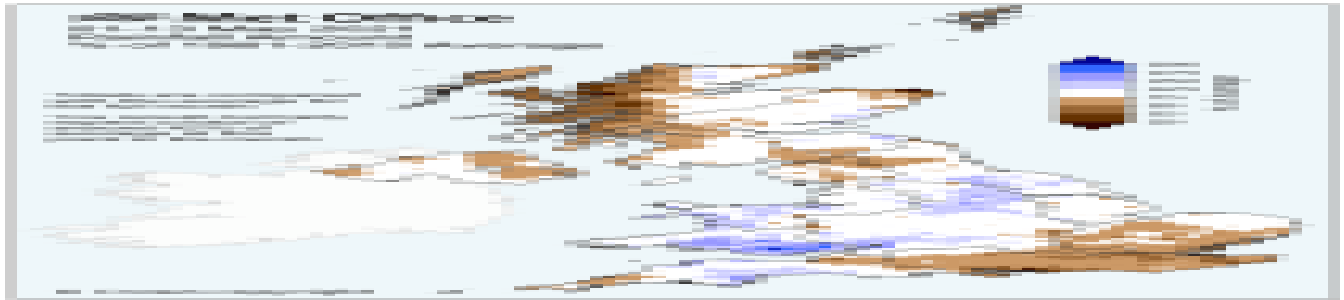


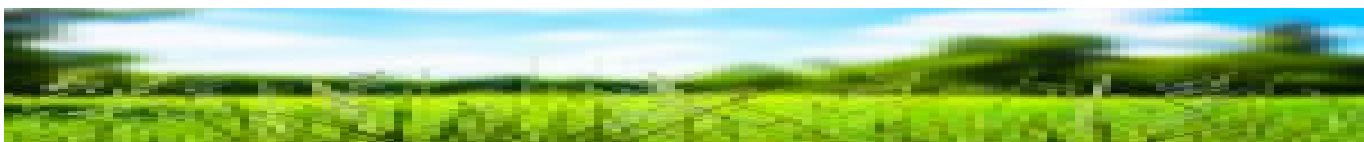
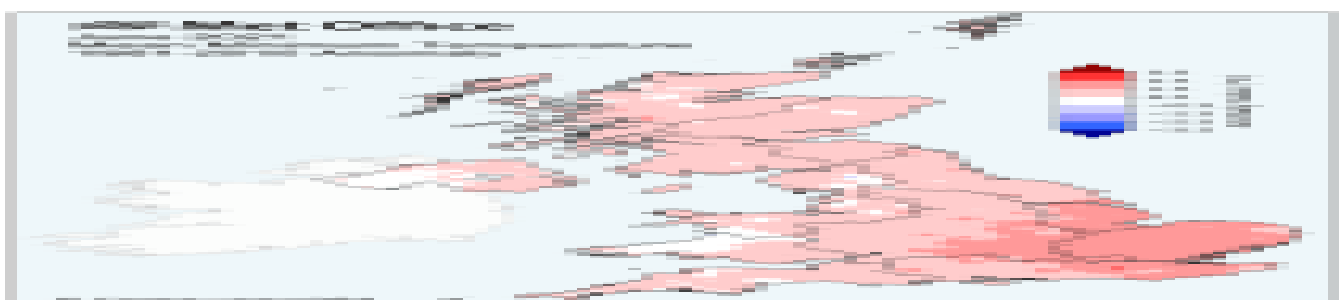


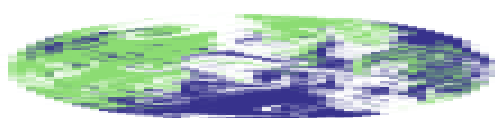
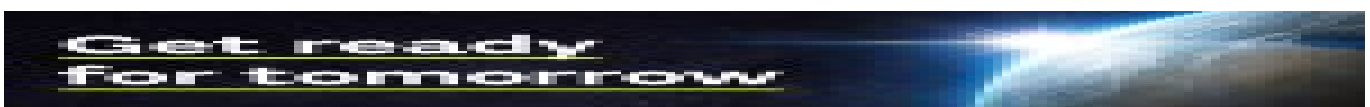
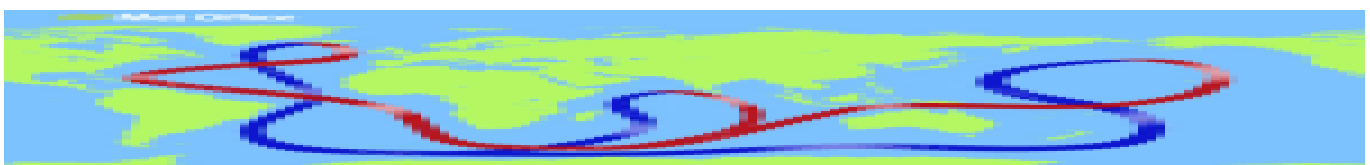
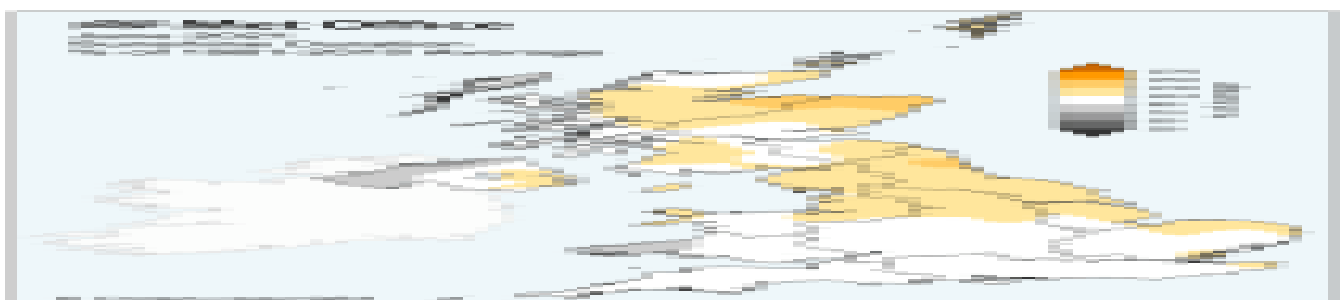
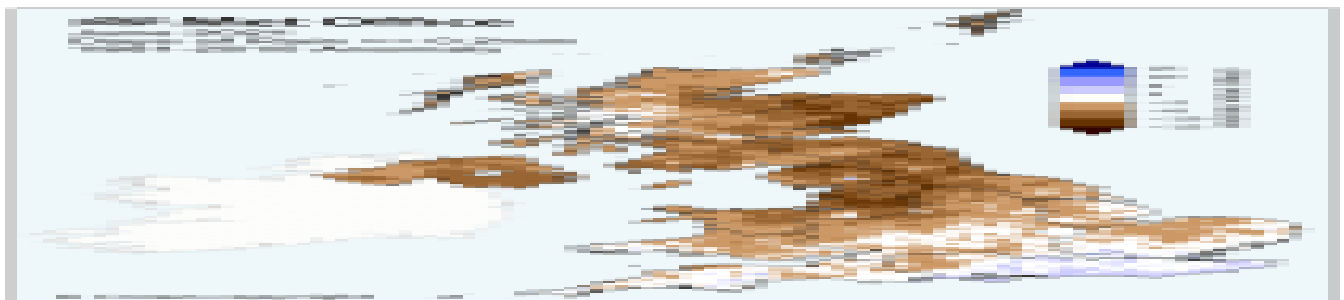
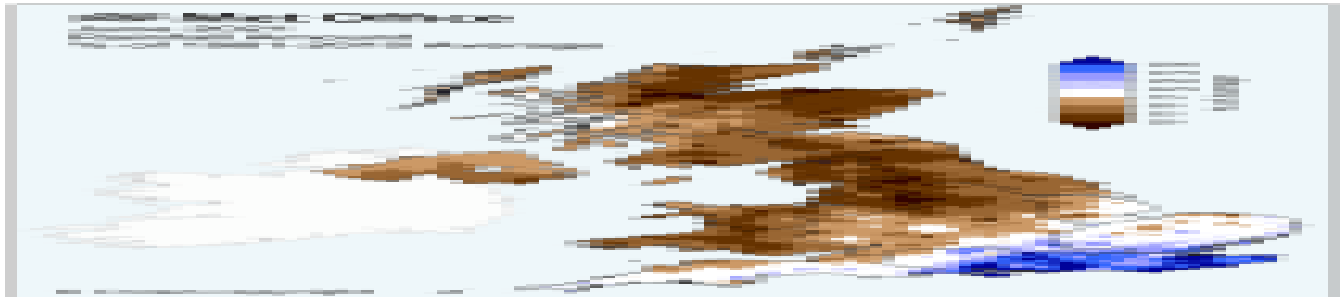


Pictured is a Puma HC.Mk 2 helicopter normally based at RAF Benson in Oxford, currently serving in Kabul, Afghanistan on Op TORAL. The helicopter provides transport and support to coalition personnel based in and around Kabul. The Puma HC.Mk 2 medium support helicopter operates under Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) control. The aircraft is used in a variety of combat roles, including the tactical movement of troops, weapons, ammunition and stores on the battlefield, as well as the extraction of casualties and in response to medical emergencies on the frontline. It is also employed during non-combatant evacuations, and humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

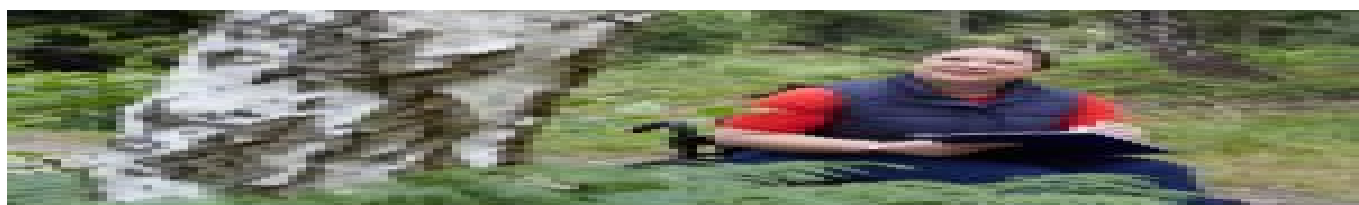
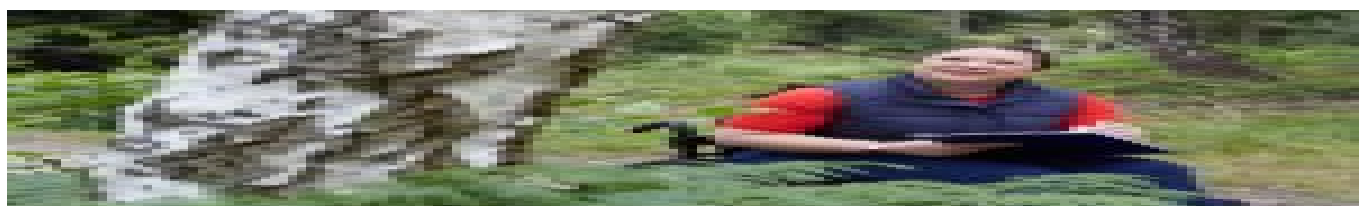
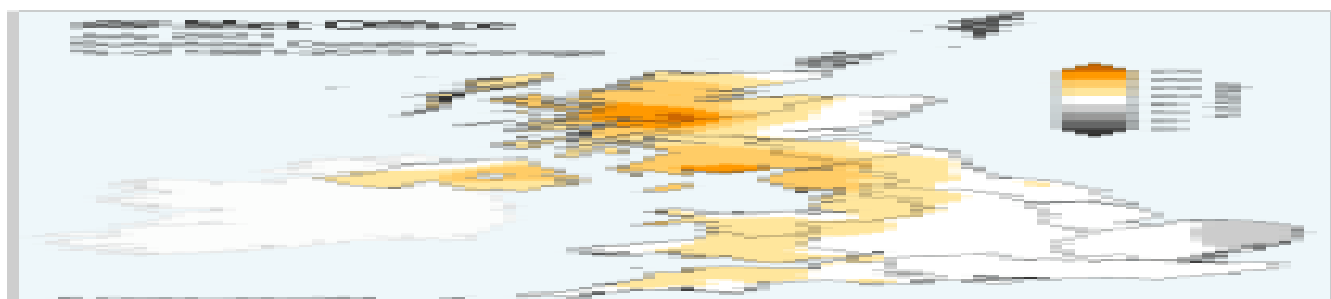
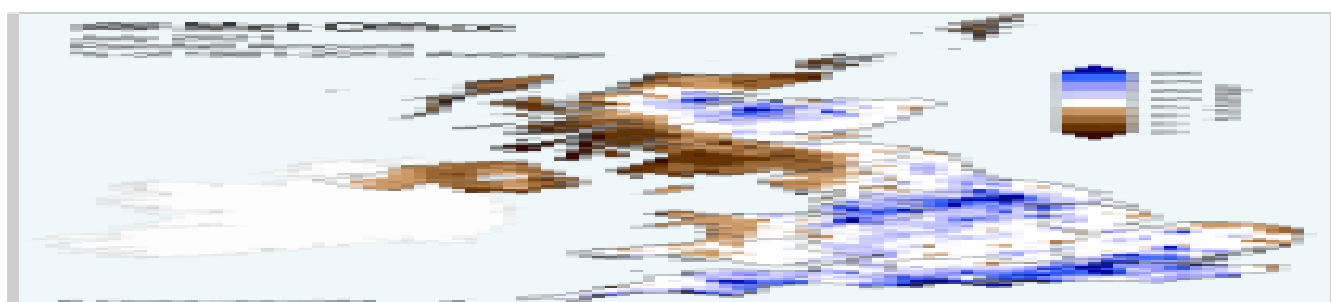


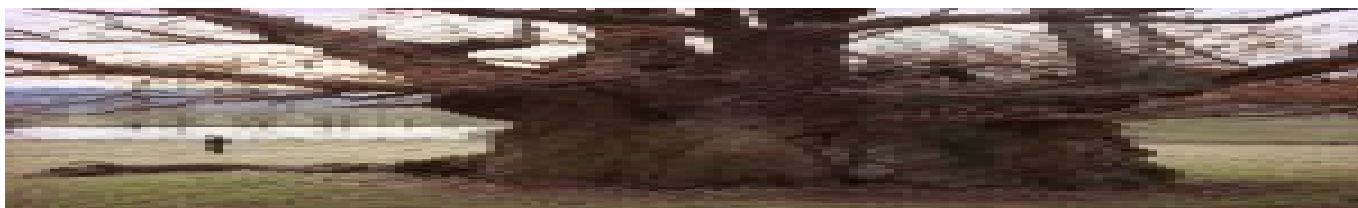


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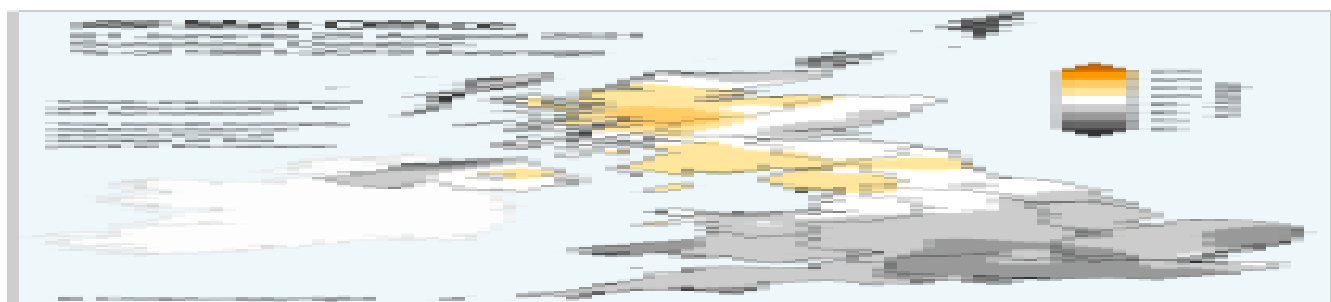
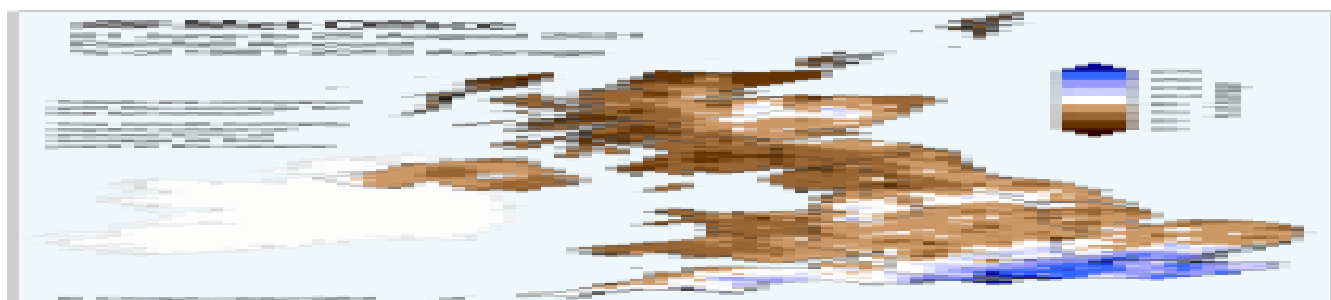
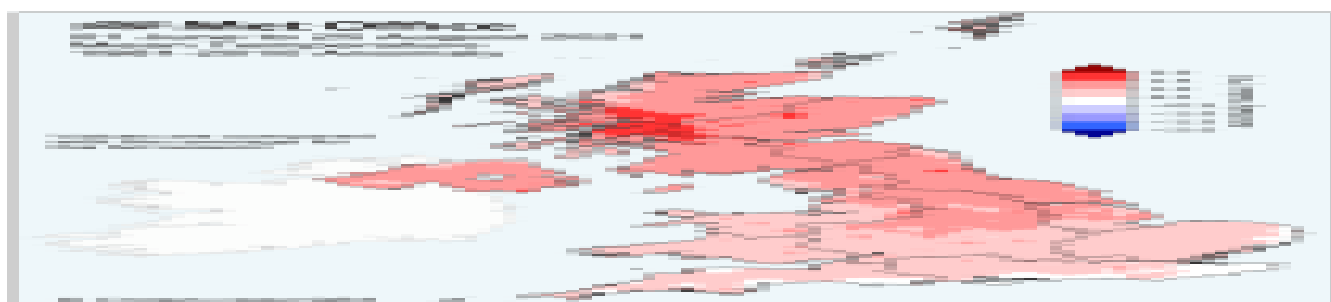
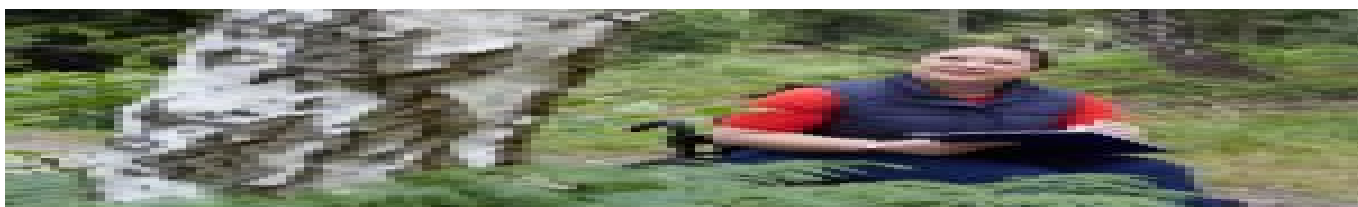


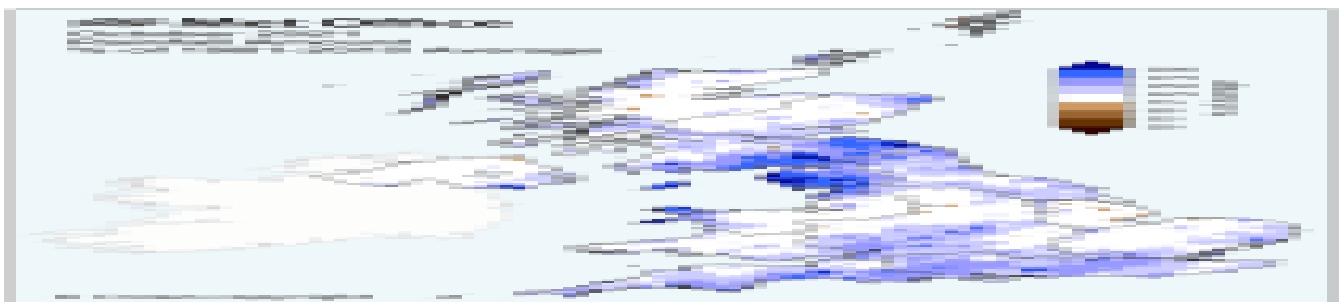
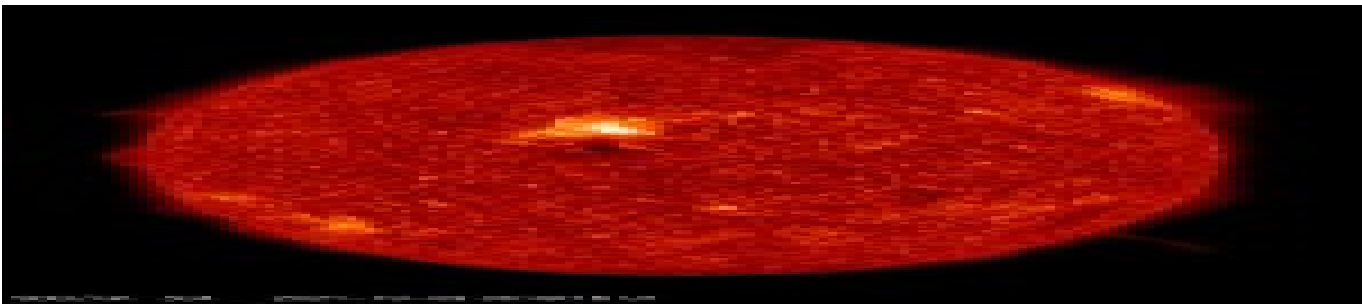
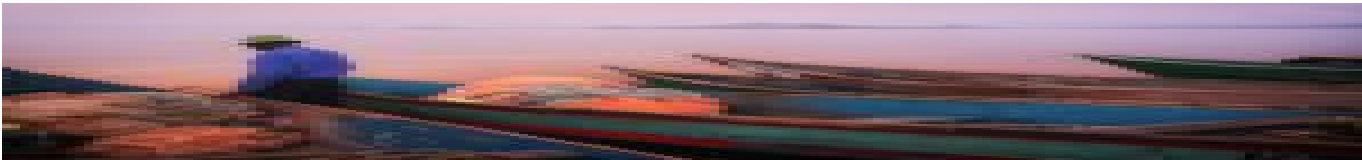
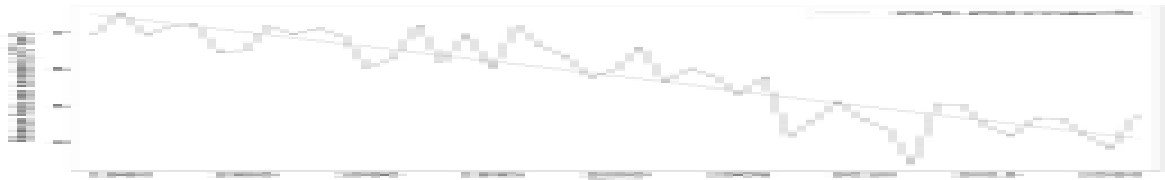
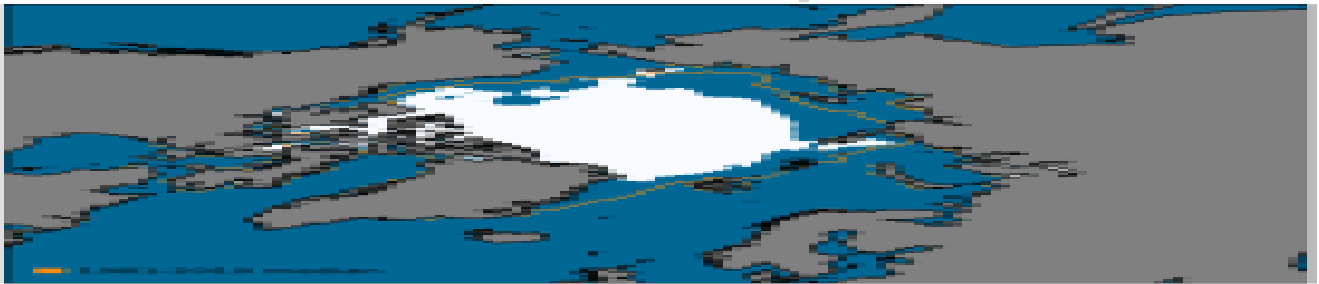
UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
THE PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

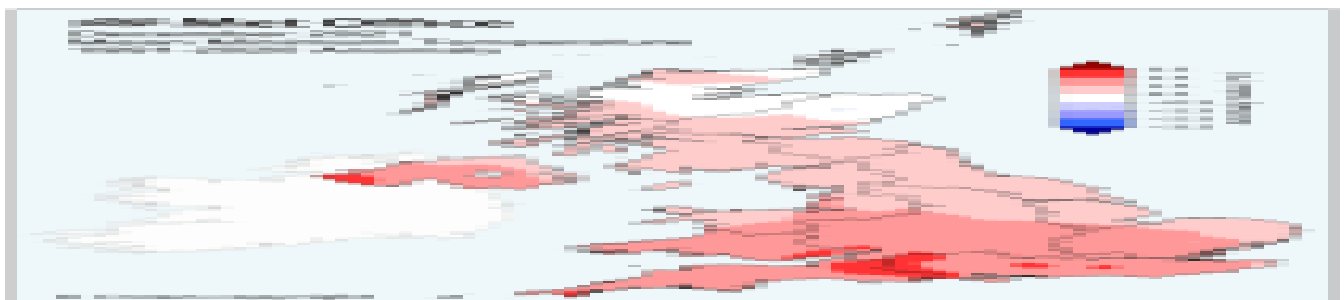
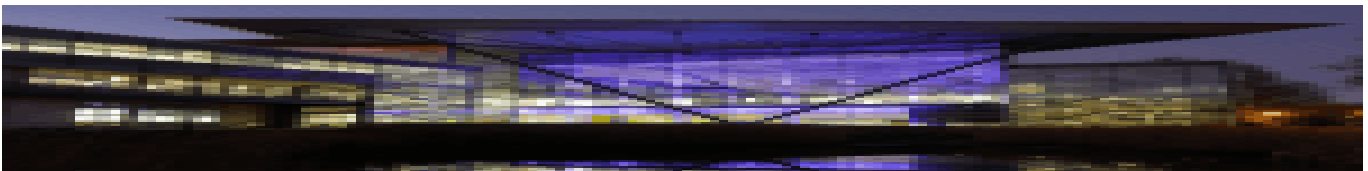
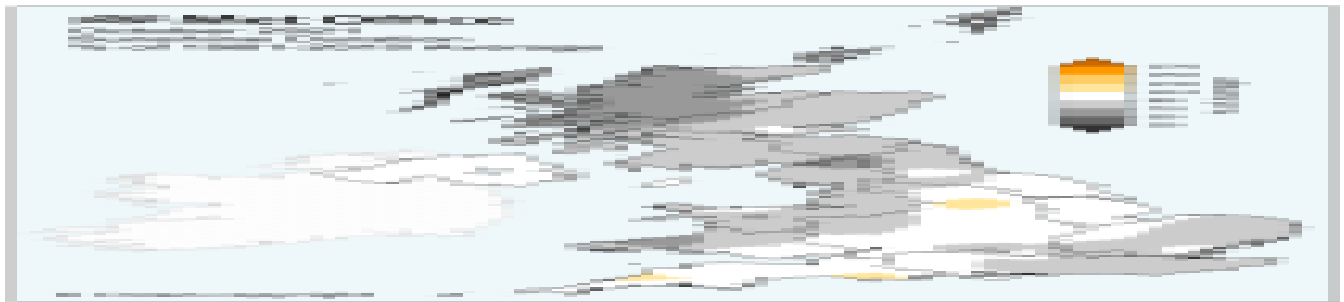
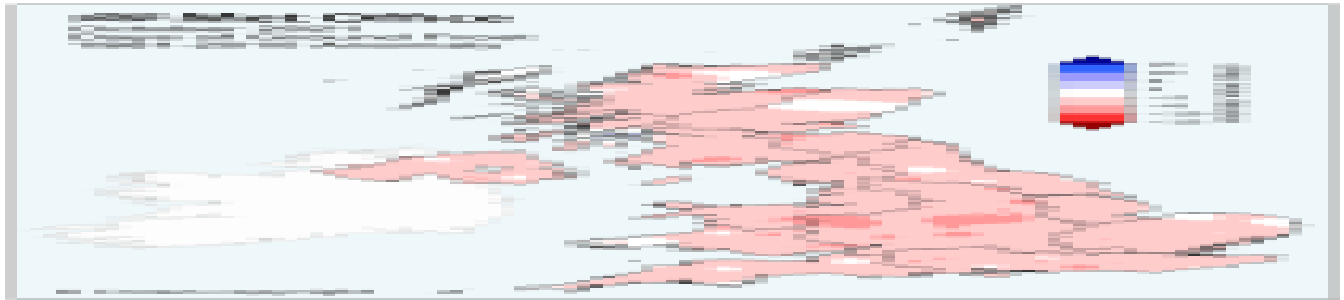


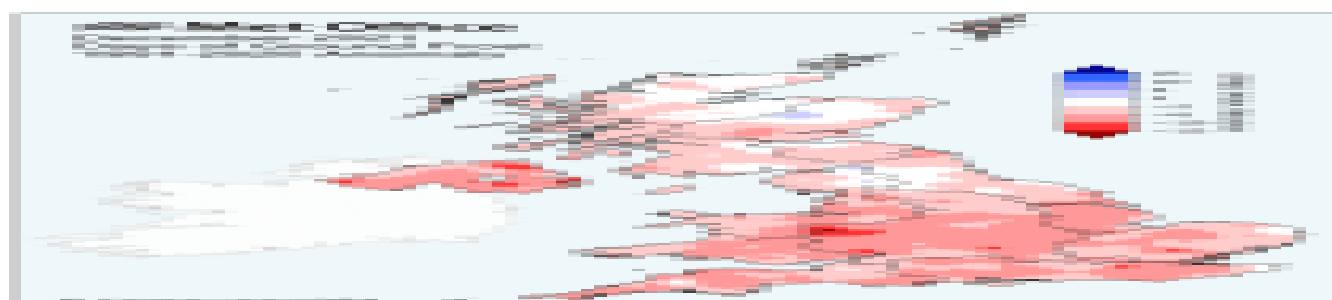
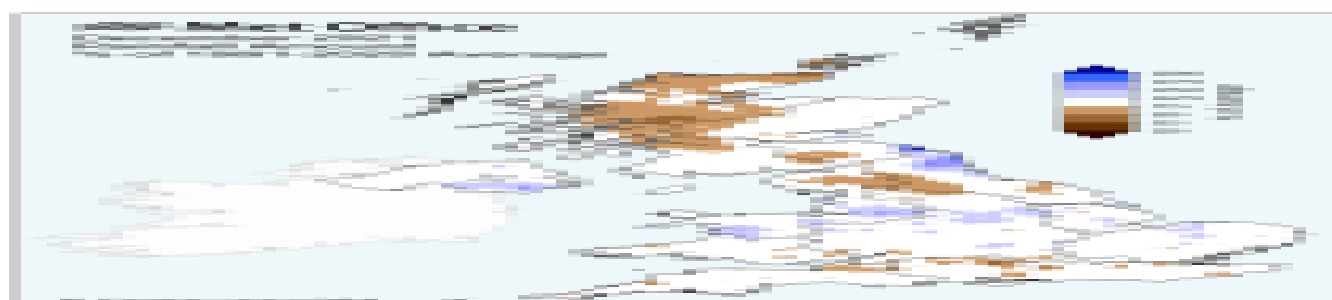
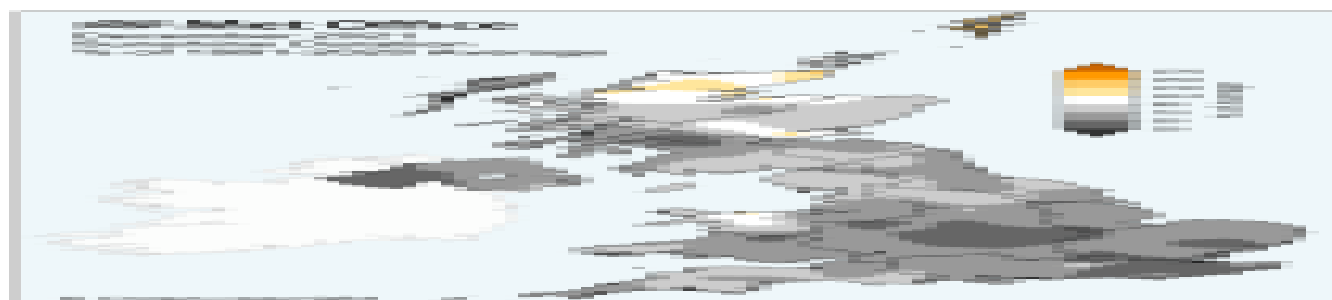
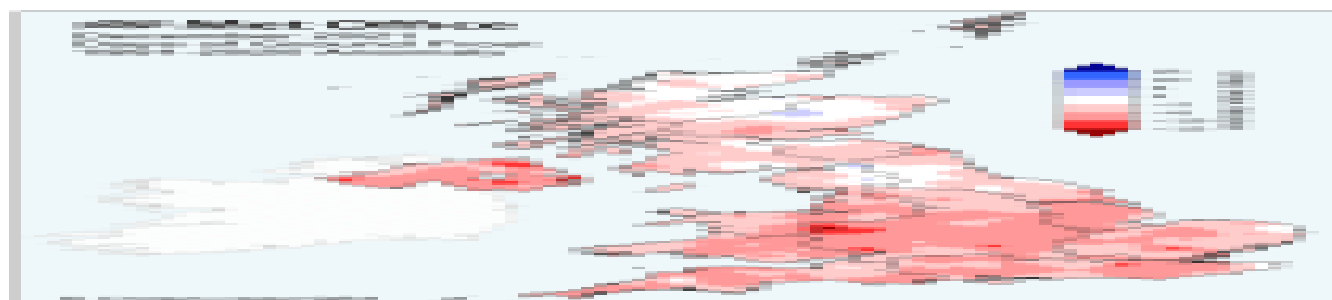


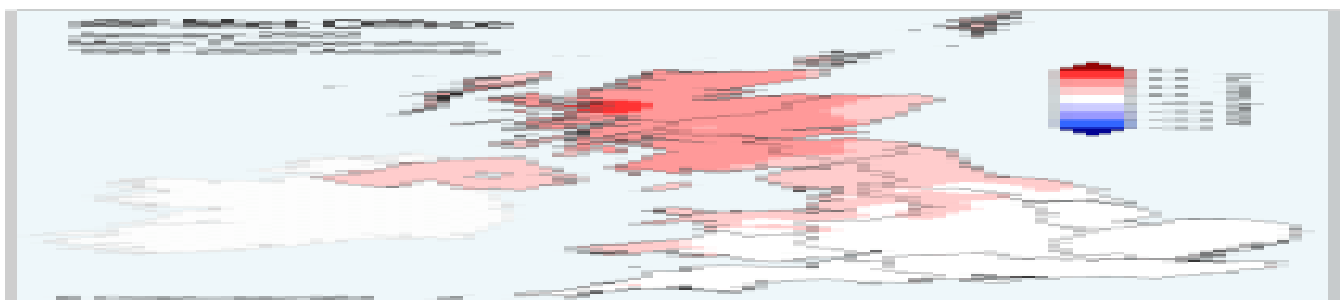
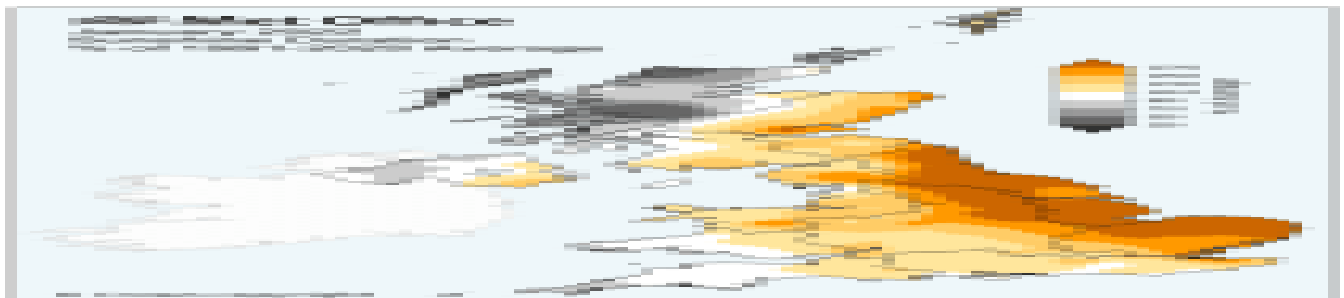
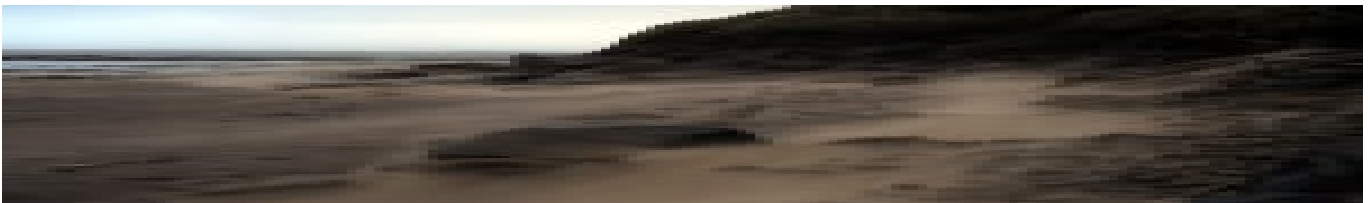
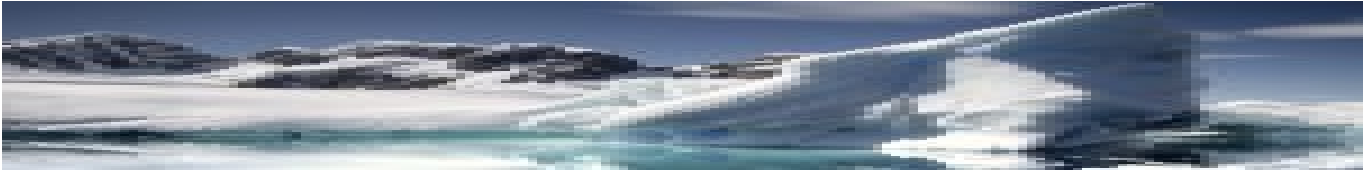
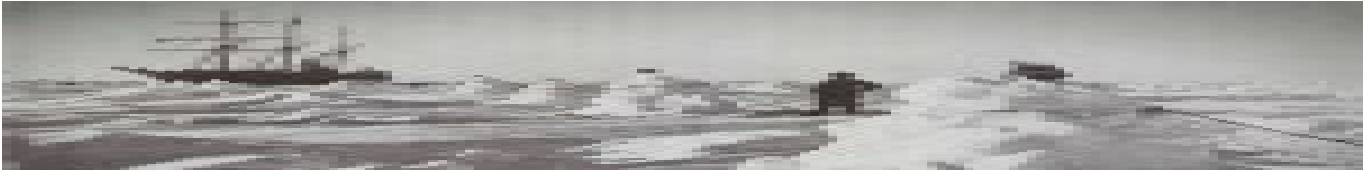
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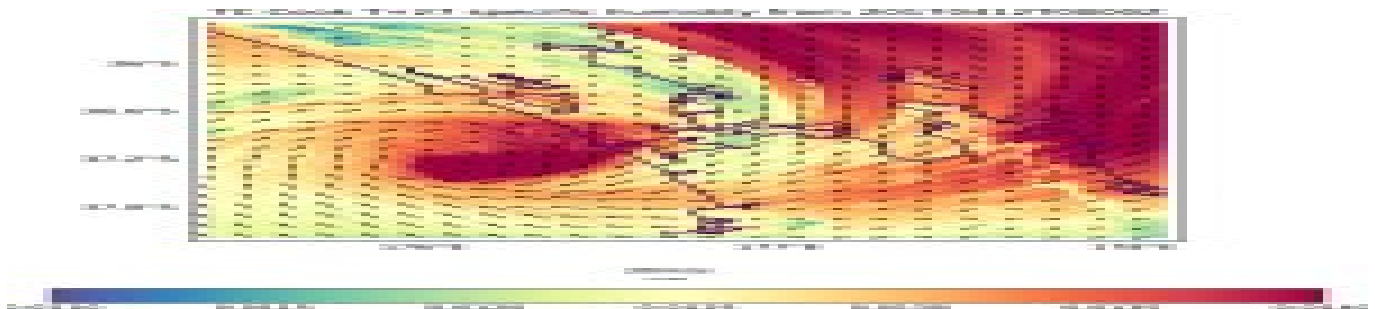
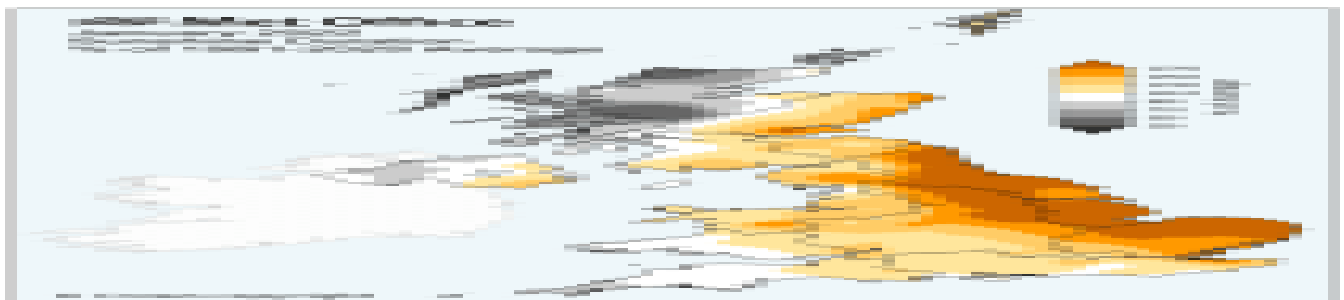
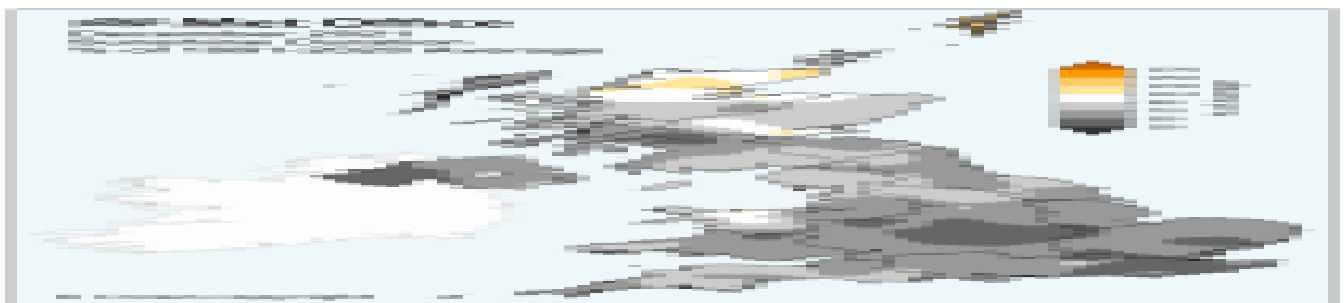
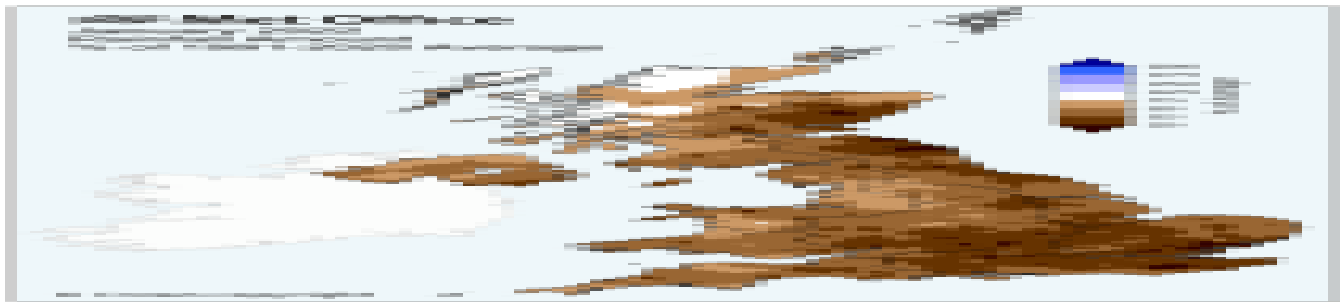
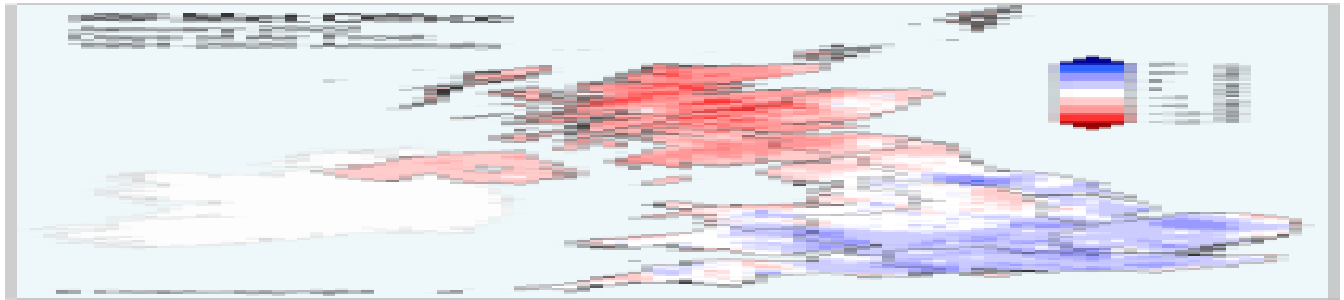


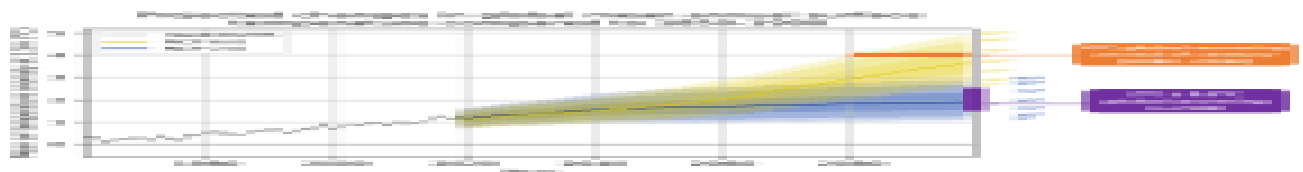
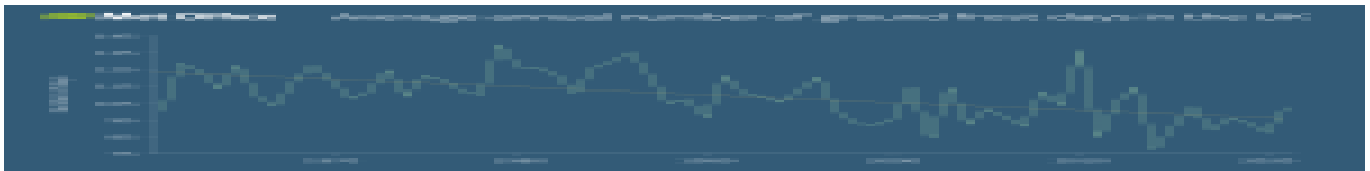
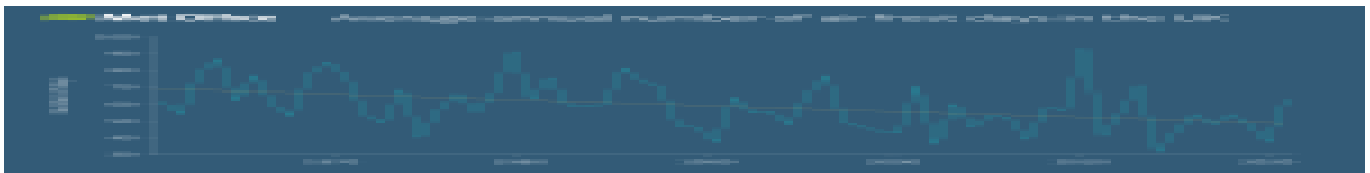


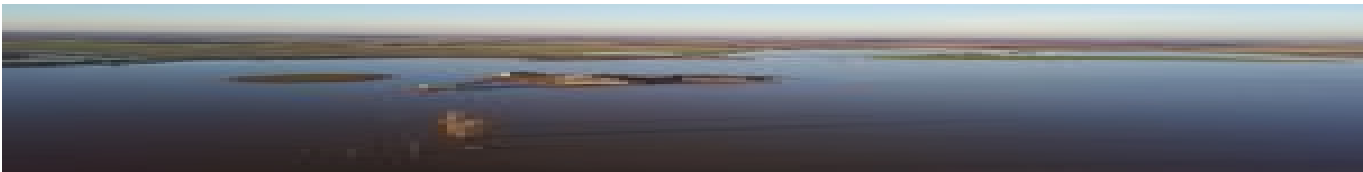




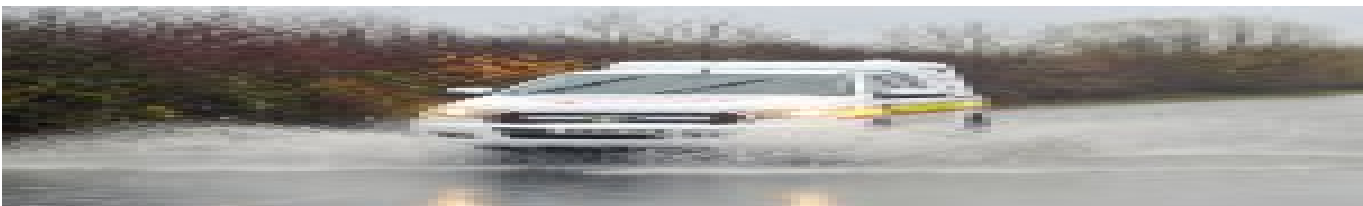






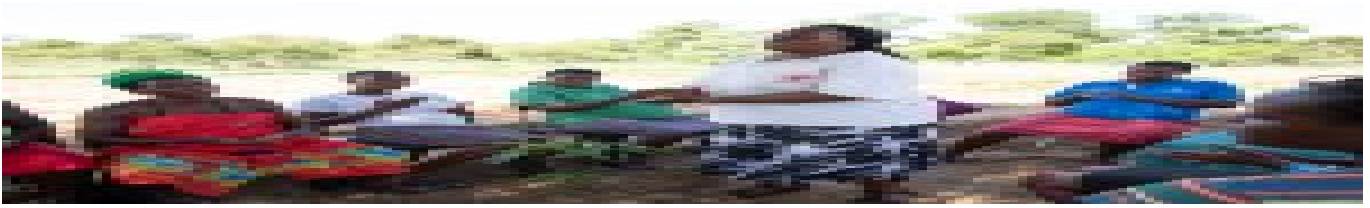


The image displays three mobile app screens. The first screen, titled 'LIFE', shows a balance of \$4,000,000.00, a list of transactions, and a 'RECENT' section. The second screen, titled 'LIFE', shows a balance of \$5,000.00, a list of transactions, and a 'RECENT' section. The third screen, titled 'F', shows a balance of \$1,000.00, a list of transactions, and a 'RECENT' section.



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Official Met Office Blog

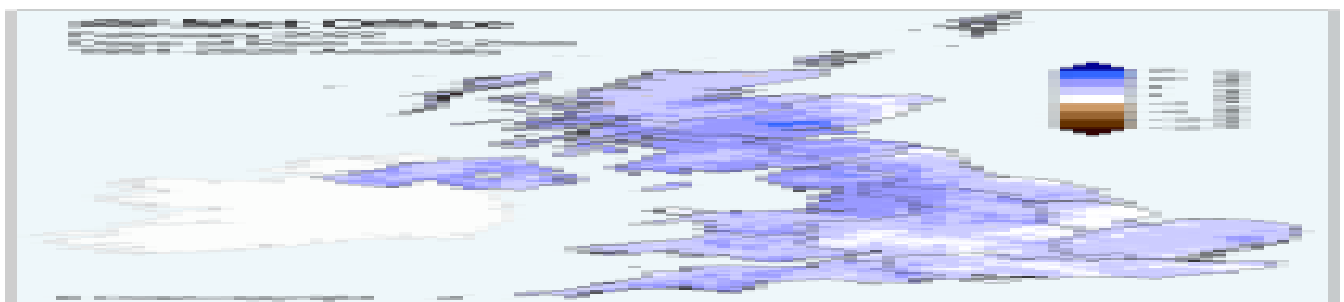
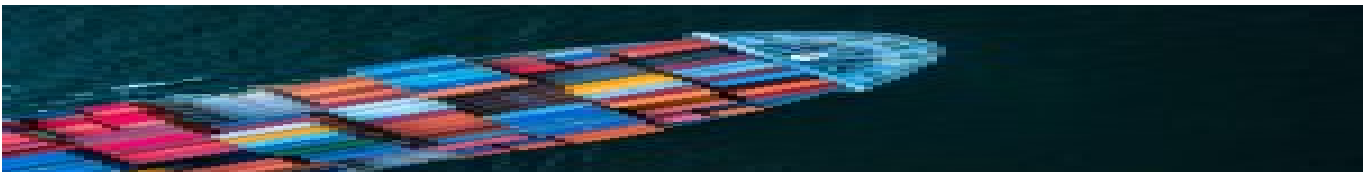
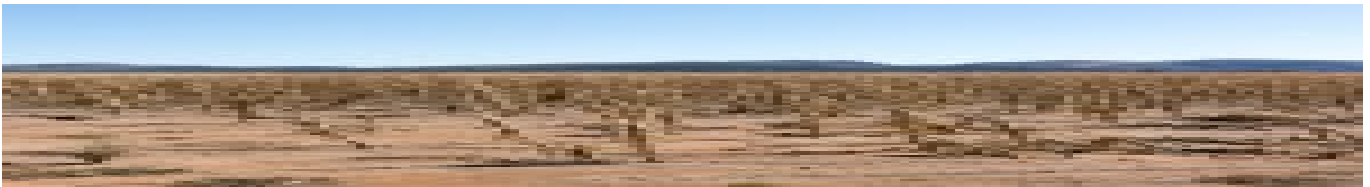


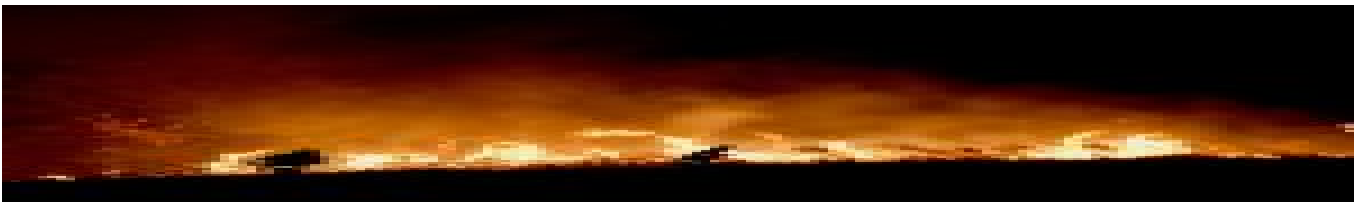
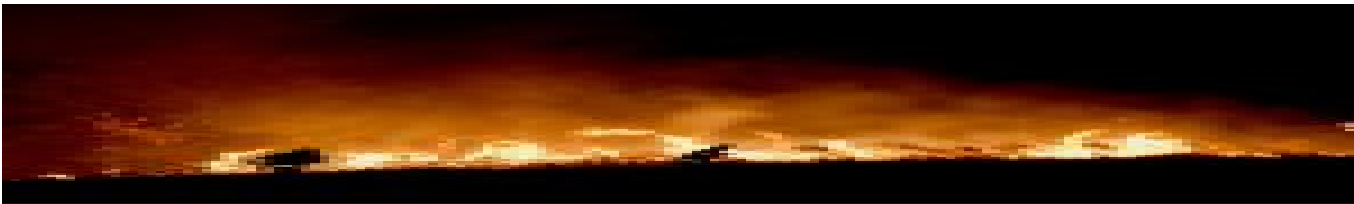
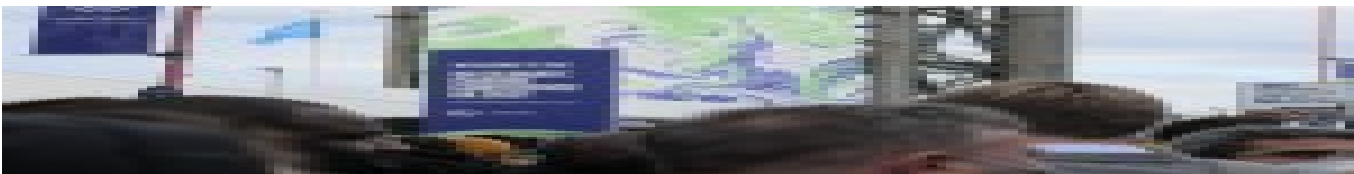
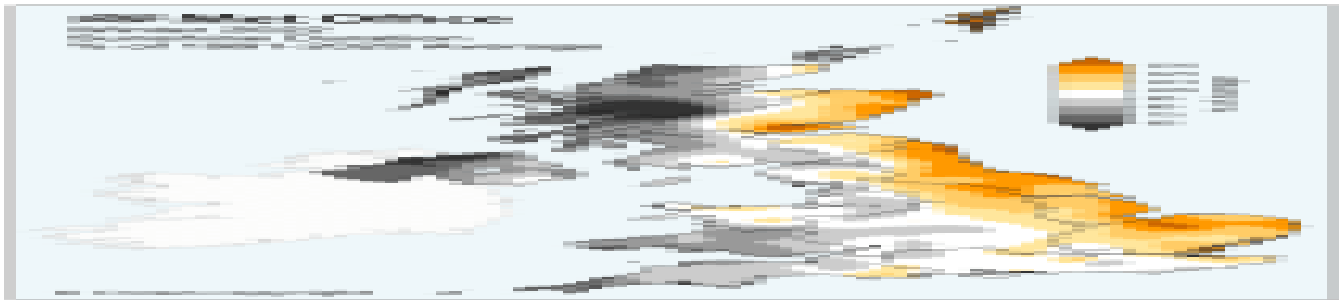
Red Cross volunteer Musa Sibanda with expectant mothers under the tree in the Red Cross nutrition garden at Neshuro District Hospital. Neshuro village, Mwenezi district, Zimbabwe. Musa says: "I started volunteering with the Zimbabwe Red Cross in 1995, so I've been volunteering for 24 years now. I decided to join because there are many challenges affecting our communities, such as poverty, climate change and HIV. Life here can be very hard for people here and I felt I was able to help." Musa continues: "As the team leader for Mwenezi district, my role involves lots of different things including coordinating, inspiring and supporting the other 520 volunteers across the district. "We train people from across the community in first aid, on climate-smart farming techniques, and providing counselling and support for people living with HIV and AIDS." Musa says: "It can be very difficult for people to survive here, most families rely on the rains to grow food to eat. Climate change is causing a lot of problems. Rains are scarce, they come once in a blue moon. We used to plough in early September, and rain used to come from October to December. In January, crops were almost ready to be harvested. Now in early January, you can see that nothing is growing in the fields. We teach climate-smart farming to subsistence farmers which supports them to grow food during drought. This helps them to become less reliant on the rain, which is unpredictable. This means they can sell produce to pay for school fees for their children, they can buy medicine for family members who get sick, or buy chickens or household items they might need. It empowers people in the long term, I've seen that people are really benefiting. The Red Cross trains 100 lead farmers each year and each farmer in turn trains 10 people in their community. If you receive the training you can make a difference, from visiting people you can see the impact is really clear. It is a long-term solution." The project is funded with support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery who have donated £750,000 over four years for this and other resilience projects in rural Zimbabwe. Musa adds: "We also teach local people about health and nutrition, including the 'five-star diet' so that people are growing and eating the right things. At the nutrition garden at the hospital new and expectant mothers learn these vital skills so they can support themselves and their new-born babies."

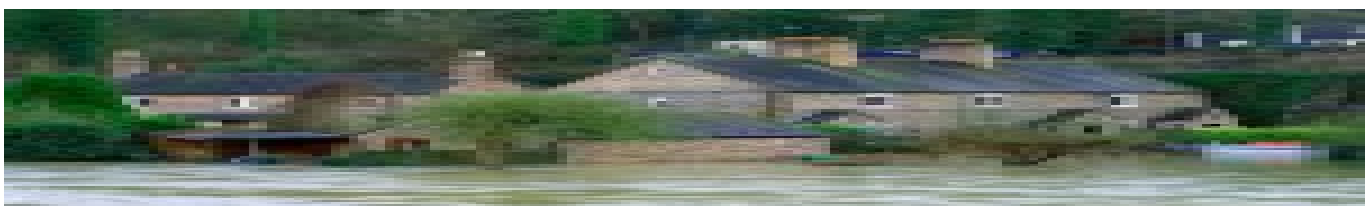
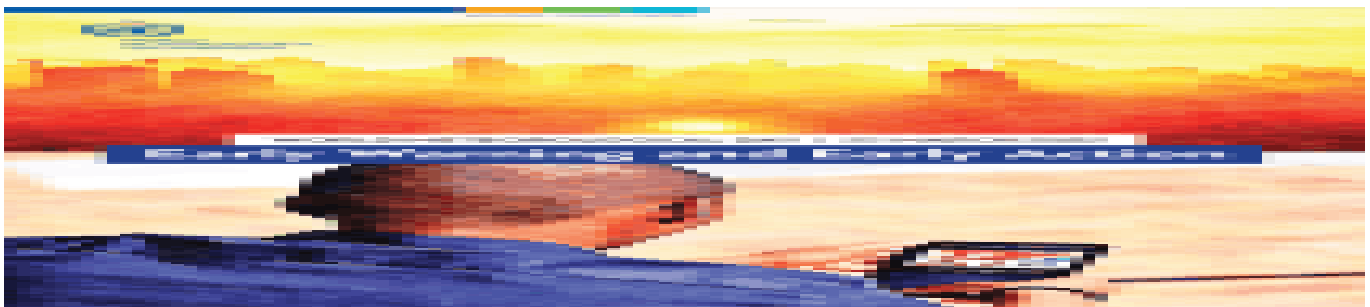
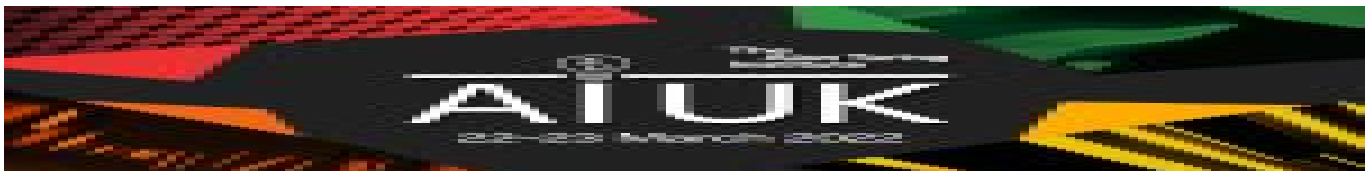
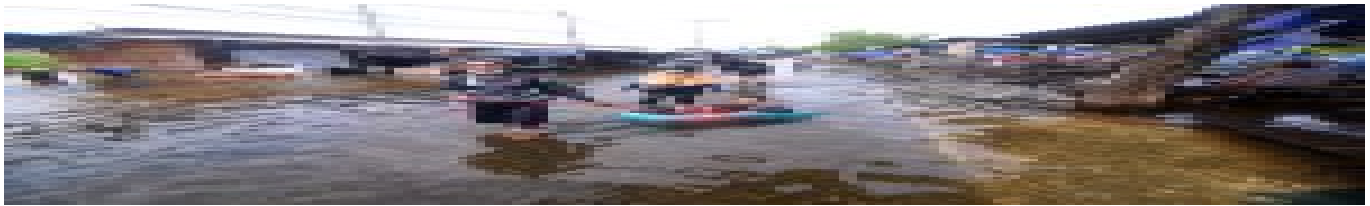
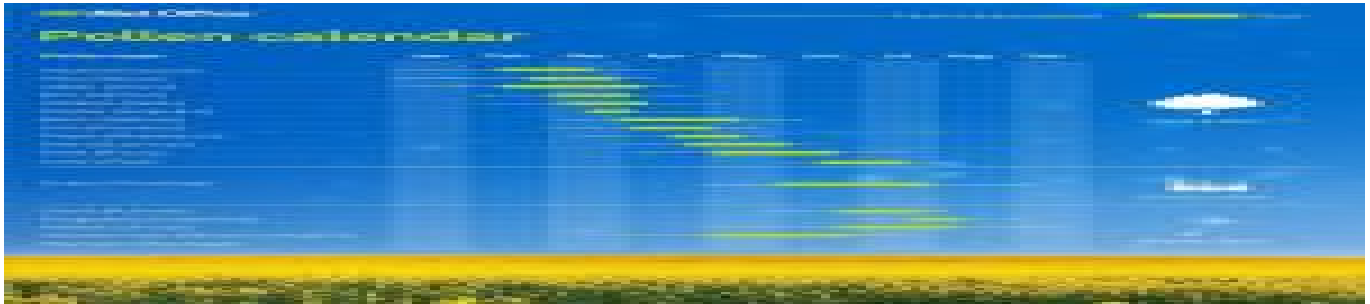


Misti, 30, rides her boat at Kirtonkhola river in Rasulpur, Barishal, Bangladesh, 2020.









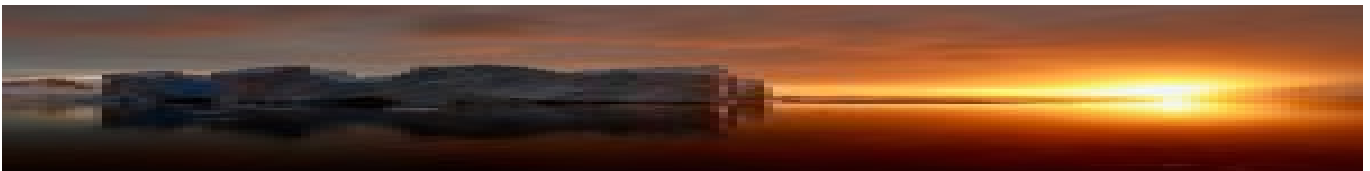
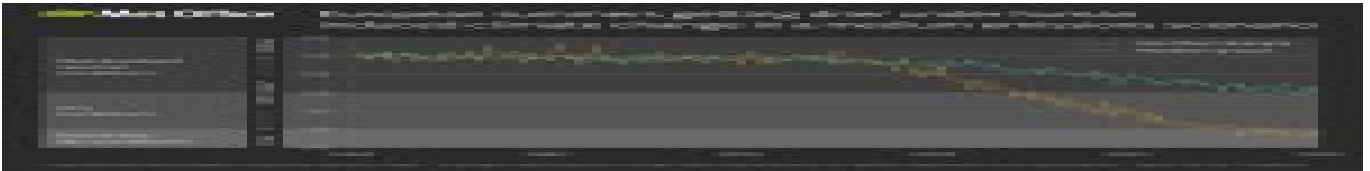
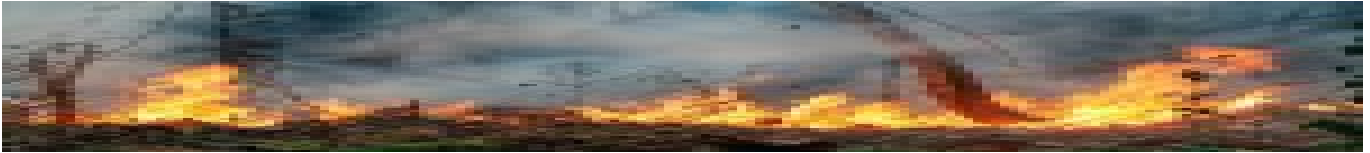


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Warm and settled weather as Torch makes its way to Worcester

Description



Torch bearer Andrew Evans-Fisher in front of Worcester Cathedral.

The weather will be dry and warm with sunny spells as the Torch Relay makes its way to Worcester on Thursday.

Temperatures could reach as high as 25 °C as the sun breaks its way through the cloud. This week's settled weather is good news for the Olympic torch's journey from Maisemore to Worcester on Thursday. If you are planning to head out to follow the Olympic Torch then you can check one of our local forecasts available for locations along its route. In fact the Met Office provides local forecasts for over 5,000 locations across the UK.

Georgia Smith, head of [VisitWorcester](#) and event lead for the city, said: "The Olympic Torch Relay is Worcester's moment to shine – it would be great if the sun obliges too. But whatever the weather, I know that it will be an amazing day – a once-in-a-lifetime event that everyone can take part in and feel the magic and excitement of the London 2012 Olympics."

[Forecasts for the Olympic Torch Relay are available on our website](#) as well as on mobile phones and on our iPhone and Android Apps meaning you are never far from a local, detailed weather forecast.

Forecasts for sporting venues at the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be available as the Games draw closer. The Met Office are providing weather forecasts to LOCOG as well as local and national government for the Torch Relay, Olympic and Paralympic Games to support event organisers, competing athletes and visitors and spectators alike.

Date Created

May 2012

Are you holding a Diamond Jubilee event? Add it to our map

Description



Are you holding a Jubilee Big Lunch event? We'd like to include your event on our [Diamond Jubilee weather map](#) on our website.

To submit your event, please add your event on our [Facebook poll](#). Once you've added your event, ask your friends to vote for your event. The ten events with the most votes will be added to our event page and map. You have until 4 pm Friday 18 May to add your event to our poll.

Date Created

May 2012

How often does it snow in May?

Description

Reports of [snow showers in parts of the UK](#) over the past 24 hours and the prospect of more on high ground tonight may seem a little out of context at this time of year, but is it unusual?

Snowfall at this time of year isn't an annual event, so it's not completely normal, but it's fair to say it's not completely unusual either. We last saw snow in May all the way back in... 2011, just last year, and we also saw more snow in 2010.

If we look back through the records dating back to 1910, the snowiest May on record was most likely in 1979 when 342 weather observation sites reported snow on 2 May.

This snowy spell lasted through the whole of the first week of that month. The light snow showers we've seen this May seem slight in comparison.

Besides these wintry showers, much has been made in the media of the ['cold spell' which is 'gripping' the UK](#) this month and the rather unsettled weather we've had.

While many people associate May with the start of summer weather, it can actually be a month of very mixed and variable conditions – with wide contrasts possible.

This is borne out by the piece of old weather lore:

Ne'er cast a clout,

Until May is out.

While this rhyme is a bit [ambiguous and open to interpretation](#), one view is that this means don't throw out your winter clothing (from clout – which means thread or cloth) until May is over – presumably because you can expect virtually any type of weather at this time of year.

So, unsettled and cool weather – even with snow or frosts – isn't out of context in May despite perceptions that it's typically a warm and sunny time of year.

This week really sums that up. We are expecting some night-time minimums which are below average – isolated areas in Scotland and northern England could get down to freezing or just below.

During the day, however, temperatures in places could get to 15C or above in parts of southern England – and it may even feel quite warm when the Sun is out, particularly in spots sheltered from the wind.

There will also be some rainfall this week, but many places will see sunny and dry spells too.

So, don't throw away your summer wear yet – nor your winter woolies.

Date Created

May 2012

What are climate models?

Description

A key way of understanding our climate and making projections about how it may change in the future is to use climate models.

These are essentially simulations of the Earth's climate system. They are made up of millions of lines of computer code which represent the physical processes which govern our atmosphere and oceans.

[Supercomputers](#) then run the code using observations of modern day climate, with the models able to recreate the past (hindcasting) or give projections of the future (forecasting).

Looking at the past is important for understanding historical changes and influences on climate, and it also allows scientists to [gauge how accurate the models are](#) (by comparing model output to reality).

Looking at the future enables researchers to see how things might change given various different scenarios – such as changing levels of greenhouse gases.

The [Met Office uses models to look at many different timescales](#) and to study different aspects of the Earth's climate system.

You can find out more about how climate models work in [our YouTube video](#).

Date Created

May 2012

Guest blog: UV index forecast, helping you to keep safe in the sun.

Description

As the sun is set to make a reappearance this weekend, Charlotte Fionda of the Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity writes this guest blog:

Last week was Sun Awareness Week, even though the sun did not appear to be aware of it in many places. This weekend, however, the sun is set to return and most of us will want to get out and make the most of the good weather. It is important to remember that although it may not feel that warm despite the sunshine, the sun is very strong at this time of year.

The Met Office provides [UV index forecasts](#) on its website so that everyone can keep up to date with how strong the sun is going to be. These forecasts take account of whether it will be cloudy, or not, when calculating a maximum UV index value for different times during the day.

The Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity '[Skcin](#)' took over sponsorship on these UV index forecasts in April. Skcin is the UK's only national skin cancer specific charity. Our key aims are raising awareness of the UK's most common cancer, promoting prevention, early detection and sun safety via Safe Sun initiatives, as well as campaigning for a cultural and educational change.

There is a clear link to weather when it comes to skin cancer and thus a clear link to the work of the Met Office and the UV index forecast. This is why we are proud to be associated with the UV forecast and to promote understanding of the dangers of over exposure to UV and the importance of being aware of UV levels, so people can adequately protect themselves and hopefully prevent skin cancer in the long run.

If you are out in the sun this weekend, even if it's not that warm, please remember to take care and avoid the harmful effects of the sun.

For further details on what to do to stay sun safe please visit the Met Office [web page](#).

Skcin have also recently set up an [award scheme](#) for primary schools to encourage all schools to adopt sun safe policy and teaching.

Date Created

May 2012

Long to rain over us

Description

Weather often makes front page news but today it's the weather forecaster who has [garnered the headlines](#) – as the paper's focus on the Prince of Wales' star turn as a presenter.

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall both [tried their hand at delivering the Met Office weather forecast on the BBC](#) during a tour of BBC Scotland's Glasgow headquarters yesterday.

While they couldn't do anything about the wet, windy and rather cold weather – they certainly did an accomplished job at getting the message across.

At one point, the Prince said: "But a cold day everywhere with temperatures of just 8C and a brisk northerly wind. Thank God it isn't a bank holiday."

The forecast has been a big hit on the internet, as the [forecast has been viewed nearly 100,000 times on YouTube](#).

It has also created interest around the world, as numerous National Met Services have contacted the Met Office to compliment the Prince's forecasting skills – suggesting he might be a good new recruit!

This is not the first time the Prince has had a close-up view of the Met Office's world leading forecast science, as he [paid a visit to our Exeter HQ in 2009](#)

As someone with a keen interest in weather and climate change, he used the visit to find out more about our cutting edge capabilities in forecasting and our pioneering climate research. Perhaps that visit was good preparation for his performance yesterday!

At the time of his visit to the Met Office Prince Charles said: "But for somebody like myself who spent at least a little bit of time in the past, when I was serving in the Royal Navy and learning to fly in the Royal Air Force, as you can imagine meteorology was quite an important part of this particular exercise.

"Having understood a little bit about what weather patterns are all about, to me it's particularly interesting to see what you do here [at the Met Office]."

The Met Office is a [leading provider of weather services for the UK's media](#) industries – providing forecasting solutions for the BBC, ITV, STV and UTV.

We also run [TV weather presenter training](#) so others can hone their skills before going in front of the cameras.

Date Created

May 2012

Weather lab in the sky

Description

The work of scientists from the UK academic community and the Met Office onboard the [Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements](#) (FAAM) research aircraft is covered on The BBC and Channel 4 today.

The BBC's Science Editor David Shukman joined yesterday's flight to probe the developing depression to the southwest of Britain. He explains how the scientists on the DIAMET project use specialist instruments to measure the winds, temperature and humidity and cloud particles to help improve the forecasting of storms.

His article about the flight includes a [short video](#) and it was also covered on the [Radio 4 Today programme](#) this morning (1:44:45 – 1:48:00). You can see his full report on the 6 o'clock and 10 o'clock News on BBC 1 today.

Tom Clark Channel 4's Science Editor was also on the flight and his report will be on C4 News at roughly 7.30pm this evening.

The DIAMET project also featured in the media last December when the FAAM research aircraft flew into a [violent storm affecting Scotland](#). The [Scottish Sun](#) carried an exclusive two page spread about the flight.

You can find out more about the 'Weather Lab in the Sky' on our video

Date Created

May 2012

Why does it always rain on the UK?

Description

After the [wettest April in records dating back to 1910](#) and an [unsettled start to May](#), parts of the UK are set to see more heavy rain today and tomorrow.

With all the wet weather, many people have been asking what is to blame and whether something unusual is going on.

In [an earlier article on this blog](#) we looked at how the jet stream has influenced the recent spell of unsettled weather, but stressed it is not the only factor at play.

While the jet stream may be an influence, there is nothing unusual about its current position and it regularly behaves in this way.

With that in mind, it's possible to go a step further and say there is nothing unusual about the UK's weather over the last few weeks.

That may sound odd on the back of a record-breaking wet month, but we do expect to see records broken and they do topple fairly regularly for one area or another.

The past April fits into this expectation – it was exceptionally wet, but only slightly wetter than the previous record set just a few years ago in 2000 and there are several years close behind.

We only have to look back another month to see that [March was the joint warmest on record for Scotland](#). Looking further back, parts of the UK have seen some of their [driest months on record](#) in the last year or so, and we saw the [coldest UK December on record in 2010](#).

The mixture of record-breaking months in recent history illustrates what's called natural variability – which is a way of summing up the inherent random or chaotic nature of weather. This is why our weather is different from one week, month or year to the next.

Here in the UK that variability is particularly noticeable because of [our location](#). We sit in the mid-latitudes where cold air from the poles meets warm air from the tropics, and have the Atlantic on one side and the large landmass of continental Europe on the other.

All these factors mean our weather can be highly variable and we can see periods of unsettled, wet and windy weather at any time of year – a challenge that the Met Office has to rise to every day to provide the accurate weather forecasts that you, businesses and our government partners have come to expect.

Date Created

May 2012

How often do we get tornadoes in the UK?

Description



Over the past few weeks there have been several reports of funnel clouds and tornadoes across the UK. So what are tornadoes and how do they form?

Tornadoes form when the weather is 'unstable' and showery. They are narrow, spinning columns of air that reach the ground from [cumulonimbus \(thunderstorm\) clouds](#). As they develop we often see funnel shaped clouds extending from the base of the cloud and it is only when these funnel clouds touch the ground that we get a tornado. If the funnel cloud touches down at sea we get a waterspout.

It is claimed that the UK gets more tornadoes per square kilometre than the USA, but not more tornadoes in total. On average, around 30 tornadoes are reported each year in the UK, although these are generally much weaker than their American counterparts. However, there have been a number of notable exceptions – such as the [Birmingham tornado on July 28 2005](#) which left a significant trail of damage.

Most continents have regions with favourable conditions for tornado formation. The central and southern US states see the most violent tornadoes in the world due to a unique combination of geographical and meteorological circumstances. This region, from Nebraska to Texas and Oklahoma, has been named 'tornado alley'. Here cold dry air moving south and east from the Rocky Mountains meets warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico, giving perfect conditions for tornadoes to form,

especially in late spring and summer.

Related articles

- [Tornado hits Britain](http://telegraph.co.uk) (telegraph.co.uk)
- ['Tornado rips path' through homes](http://bbc.co.uk) (bbc.co.uk)
- [Tornado reported during storm in Oxfordshire](http://bbc.co.uk) (bbc.co.uk)

Date Created

May 2012

Wet weather could increase pollen count in hay fever season

Description

There has been a number of news stories in the press about the impact the [recent wet weather](#) could have on the [pollen count](#) later in the year. In the [Telegraph](#), Patrick Sachon, Met Office Health Business Manager, said: 'The wet weather is definitely helping the grass grow so if we have dry weather in May and June it would mean a high grass pollen count, and grass pollen affects 95 per cent of sufferers.'

The [Daily Mail](#) reported:

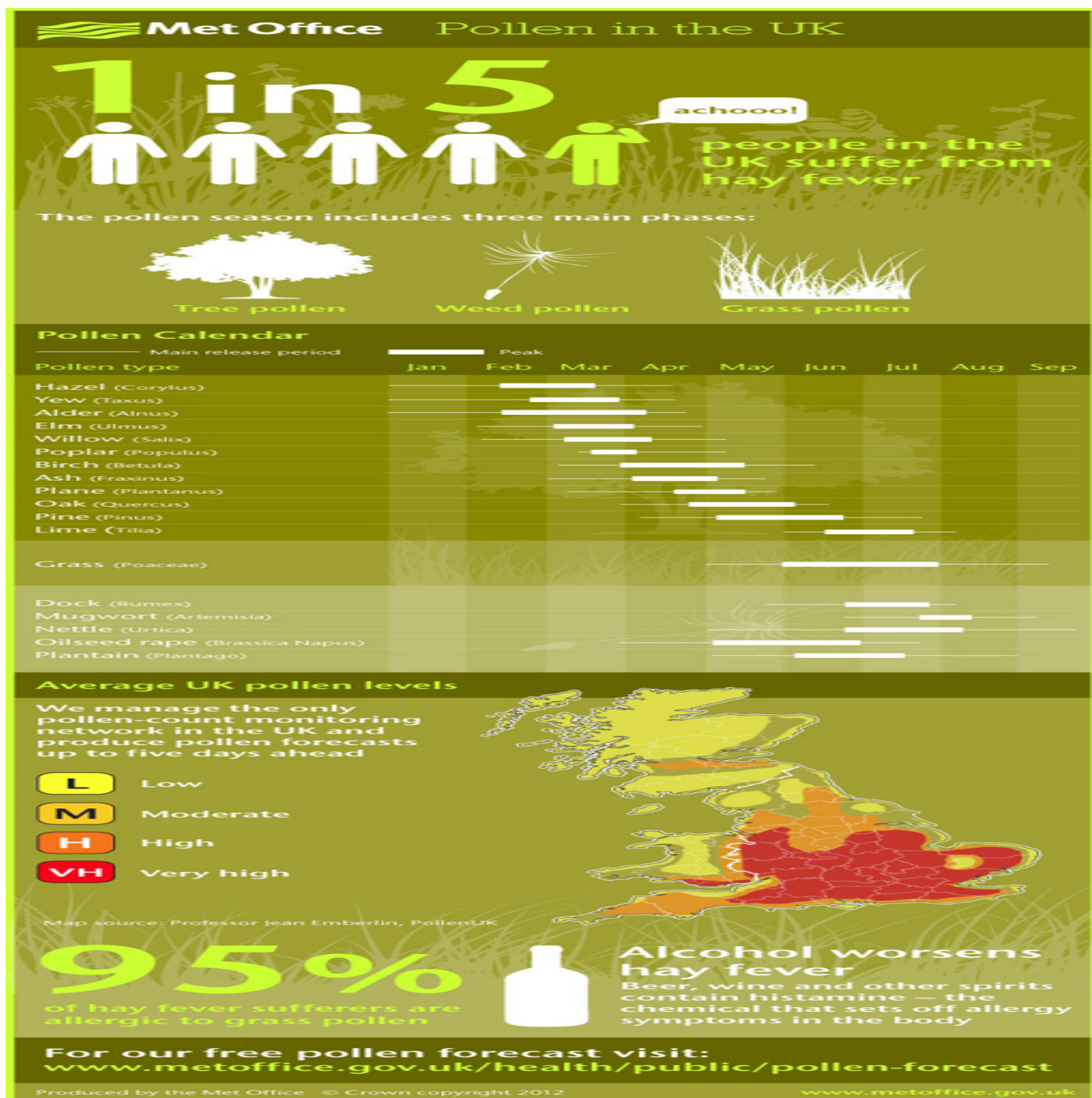
Trees need a cold snap before they come out of winter dormancy, and the sudden chill in February, followed by a warm March, gave the perfect kick-start to their growing season.

What's more, birch trees tend to have high and low alternating pollen years. Last year saw relatively low birch pollen counts from the trees' catkins, so this year's counts were expected to be high. The suffering could have been even worse but for the torrential rain.

Professor Jean Emberlin, a scientific consultant to Allergy UK, says: 'We have had a run of very high pollen counts in a lot of areas, which has made it a bad season for some people.'

'Rain washes the pollen out of the air so people aren't exposed to it. But if you get a day without rain, and if it's windy, the pollen will disperse from the trees.'

The Met Office [pollen forecast](#) is now available, you can check the forecast in your local area and record your symptoms on the [Benadryl social pollen count application](#). Our new [pollen in the UK infographic](#) can help identify when to expect the peak periods for each type of pollen and where in the UK has the highest pollen count.



Related articles

- [Why April's showers could mean a very sneezy summer](http://telegraph.co.uk) (telegraph.co.uk)
- [Storms lead to Hayfever alert](#) (London Evening Standard)
- [Why this wacky weather's turning us sneezy](#) (Daily Mail)

Date Created

May 2012

Your weather poems

Description



We had over a hundred weather poem tweets in our competition to win a limited edition Met Office blue sky umbrella on [Twitter](#). We couldn't retweet them all so here's some more of our favourites.

The winner:

From [@CMDexe](#) Is it wet, is it dry, are there clouds up in the sky? To see what's ahead we check the past & thus is born the weather forecast.

Highly commended:

From [@tobleroni45](#) Tonight for the first time, just about half past ten, for the first time in history, I'm gonna watch weathermen! #rainraingoaway

From [@gaiacaecilia](#) One wonders whether the british weather could ever get any wetter for british weather seems forever wetter than any other weather

From [@andrew_spires](#) Is the rain going to fall? I can't tell, I'm a novice. So I log onto Twitter and follow @metoffice #weatherpoem

Some more of our favourites:

From [@Mookii](#) Blue sky, bright sky, dark clouds too, the MET office provides the forecast for you. You're a tweet away, for the weather today!

From [@realityminus3](#) The troposphere's grand incarnation: A cumulonimbus occasion! Tornadoes and lightning with squall lines most frightening; The awesomest manifestation!!

From [@chrissieroyal](#) Rain, rain, go away – that was April, this is May! #weatherpoem

From [@delphinius2](#) Alto stratus, you've answered our prayers, with medium height and beautiful layers

From [@alanhousden](#) If sky is red when you awake/ An umbrella you should take/ If horizon's red at night/ Chances are it'll be alright.

From [@NickyjaneR](#) Step outdoors, rain pours, thunderclaps, a cold snap, lightning flash, frantic dash, cloudburst, do your worst

From [@ptallan10](#) lazing under a clear blue sky, high above I hear a skylark cry, then I wake up from a dream, no escape from the uk jetstream!

Date Created

May 2012